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SOCCER

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ALEX's 445, NOT OUT

Alex Tobin being congratulated by the Power's head coach David Mitchell last Sunday night at the Belmore Sports Ground.

By John Economos

ALEX TOBIN, the Parramatta Power's former World Cup captain, is set to break the all-time record this Saturday night in the NSW country centre of Bathurst, of all places, for the most matches played in the history of any footballing code in Australia.

The Power on Saturday has relocated its 'special home match' against the Eastern Pride to be played in Bathurst, as a promotional move of taking the NSL into a country area.

Last Sunday night at the Belmore Sports Ground, in Sydney, the Power's lanky sweeper and captain, equalled the all-time record of 445 games in the NSL, set by Tobin's former, (now retired), Adelaide City team-mate, the magnificent midfielder, Sergio Melta.

After equalling Melta's massive record last Sunday against Sydney Olympic, the 35 year old Tobin has now played 436 NSL games with the South Australian 'Black and Whites' plus nine games with current team, the Parramatta Power.

In his most illustrious international career, the towering Tobin has been capped 87 times for the national team, including being appointed by former national coach Eddie Thomson as captain of Australia from 1996 till last year.

After Saturday night, Melta will still retain some kind of record, having played all of his 445 games with just the one club, Adelaide City.

The lofty and quietly spoken Tobin stated to ABSW last night: "I never dreamed that I would one day be in a position to be breaking Sergio's great match record.

"Right here I must pay a very special tribute to Sergio for whom I've had a great respect as a player and always will have as a person.

"In my opinion, I rate Sergio as one of the all time greats in the NSL.

"It feels very strange that I'm about to break his great record, having played with Sergio for so long.

"It's a record but I can't focus too much on it.

"It's going to be a great honour on Saturday, but as I'm still playing, I must remain focussed till I actually retire, which I don't plan on doing for at least another two or more years.

"What you could say is that I will have achieved just a milestone," Tobin philosophically remarked.

Whilst with Adelaide City, Tobin played in no less than five Grand Finals, winning at hat-trick of League Championship medals, (1986, 1992 and 94), whilst losing to Marconi in 1993 and to the Melbourne Knights in 1995.

Tobin rates all five Grand Finals as highlights in his career with the National League.

"I must admit that I have a very special place for the 1986 Grand Final, purely because it was my first, as well as Adelaide City's first National League Championship.

"It's been great and I have some very good memories," Tobin reminisced.

Continued on page 3

THIRD BIDDER FOR CARLTON

By Bert van Bedaf

Adelaide businessman Con Makris emerged a frontrunner to take over NSL club Carlton when the Cuteri consortium pulled out of the race late Monday afternoon.

But a third bidder, wealthy Melbourne-based Italian businessman, Tony Schiavello, entered the scene last Sunday.

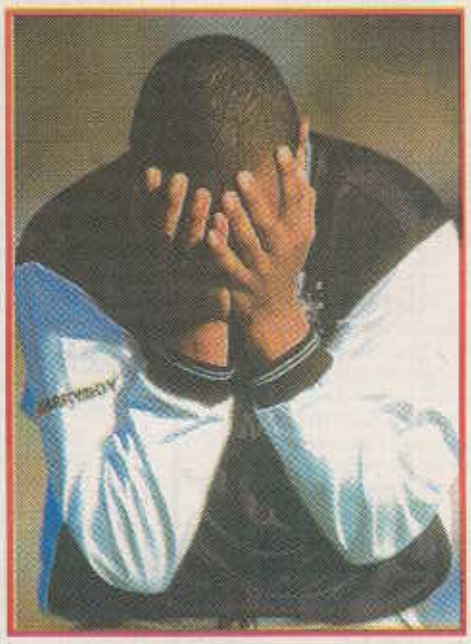
President of Brunwick United Juventus when the now defunct club won the NSL title in 1985, Schiavello owns Schiavello Commercial Interiors at Tullamarine.

"I had a meeting with Peter Jess on Sunday and he's sent me some more information. I'll have to assess it and come back to him tonight (Monday) or tomorrow (Tuesday) for another meeting," Schiavello said.

Melbourne's northern suburbs La Ionica Poultry owner Sam Cuteri was back at his factory in Thomastown late Monday, looking back on his efforts to buy Carlton and have it play at local Epping Stadium.

But the stakes became too high. Three of his co-investors pulled out. To finance the deal, costing $5 million over three years, together with his remaining investor, believed to be a local pizza family restaurant owner, proved too expensive.

Continued on page 3



Carlton's striker, Archie Thompson, demonstrates anguish. Carlton's future will be determined this morning.

CORRY BLASTS NSL REFEREE PAGE 2

THE GOOD OIL ... PAGES 4-5

SA SUMMER SERIES FULL DRAW PAGE 6

RIO FERDINAND WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE DEFENDER CENTRE SPREAD

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UNDER 17'S RACK UP 30 AGAINST AMERICAN SAMOA

AUSTRALIA	30
AMERICAN SAMOA	0

GAME ONE

Australia has recorded it's highest ever score in an international soccer competition, trouncing American Samoa 30-0, in it's first match of the Oceania Football Confederation Under-17 Qualifiers, in Samoa.

Five hat-tricks were scores amongst the Joeys, with 16 year old striker Terry Smith putting away eight of the thirty goals.

Sean Walsh put the first Australian goal on the board in the fifth minute, and went on to score another two with Ben Stevens picking up a hat-trick. Smith's first effort was rewarded in the 12th minute. Fred Agius scored in the 22nd before completing his stash of 6 goals in the 73rd, Jay Lucas netted four, with single goals and one own goal making up the Australian tally.

American Samoa's cause was not helped by a red-card being issued to one of their players in just the 10th minute, the player judged to have been the last man in defence, bringing down Fred Agius on his way to goal.

Australia's previous record stood at 24-0, hit up against Vanuatu in 1989, again by the Under-17s. Terry Smith's effort fell two goals short of the record set by Matthew Zec in the same game, when he found the back of the net 10 times.

Sean Walsh: Hat-Trick.

Coach Ange Postecoglou was obviously pleased with the result, but more so with the team's all round performance, than with the final scoreline.

"Obviously the boys did really well out there, but the important thing is that they did the right thing through to the end," he said after the match.

"Instead of being selfish in front of goals, because it could have been very easy for them to start showing off, or playing individually, they kept passing the ball around, and kept their discipline right to the end.

AUSTRALIA 30: *(Sean Walsh 5' 28' 50', Ben Stevens 7' 41' 48', Terry Smith 12' 32' 52' 61' 64' 81' 84' 87', Fred Agius 22' 26' 35' 56' 59' 73', Jay Lucas 43' 54' 69' 71', own goal 58' Brett Studman 62', Carl Valeri 65', Mario Karlovic 75', Michael Brown 76', Predrag Bojic 85')*
AMERICAN SAMOA 0:

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP
Nathan Coe (gk); Alex Wilkinson, Predrag Bojic, Brett Studman; Ben Stevens (Massimo Murdocca 75'), Mario Karlovic (Anthony Danze 78'), Carl Valeri (capt) Sean Walsh (Michael Brown 75'), Fred Agius; Jay Lucas, Terry Smith.

AUSTRALIA MAKE IT TWO FROM TWO

AUSTRALIA	7
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	0

GAME TWO

The Australian Under 17's side have scored a comfortable 7-0 win over Papua New Guinea in their second match of the Oceania Football Confederation Under-17 Qualifiers being held in Samoa.

Midfielder Sean Wlash once again got his name on the scoresheet after side footing the ball past the keeper after a cross from Matthew Engele, to open Australia's account after just five minutes.

Engele himself was next to score, in the 14th minute, with his strike partner Brett Holman weaving past three defenders and shooting hard and low past the hapeless PNG keeper in the 37th minute, to make it a 3-0 half-time scoreline to the Joeys.

The Australian assault continued into the second half, defender Alex Wilkinson heading in Australia's fourth in the 67th minute from a Fred Agius free kick.

The defender was on hand once again just three minutes later, heading in from a Massimo Murdocca corner.

In between, Anthony Danze found time to put his name on the scoreboard, while Walsh finished the game the way he started, slotting Australia's final goal home with a volley in the 83rd minute for a comfortable 7-0 win.

Anthony Danze: One of five to score against Papua New Guinea.

"The boys played well for the most part, although really, we could have had another seven or eight goals," said Postecoglou after the match.

"Papua New Guinea was definitely a better quality opposition than American Samoa, and they've been the surprise packet of the tournament so far, beating the Solomon Islands and Samoa, games which they were probably expected to lose.

AUSTRALIA 7:
(Sean Walsh 5' 83', Matthew Engele 14', Brett Holman 37', Alex Wilkinson 67)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 0

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP: Nathan Coe (gk); Alex Wilkinson, Rodney Madigan, Brett Studman; Sean Walsh, Massimo Murdocca, Carl Valeri (capt) (Michael Brown 78'), Anthony Danze (Steve Baveas 71'), Fred Agius (Russell Waller 68'); Matthew Engele, Brett Holman.

SCHOOL BOYS HOME AFTER SUCCESSFUL TOUR

The Australian Schools Soccer's Boys "A" team returned home this week following their successful tour of New Caledonia and Vanuatu where they recorded four wins out of their five tour international matches.

Wins against the New Caledonia's U17 Development squad (5-0 and 10-2) were followed by last-minute wins against Vanuatu's Under 20 team (3-2 and 2-1) while their only loss was at the hands of the Vanuatu senior team 3-0.

"Despite limited preparation due to the wet weather in Sydney prior to the tour, the lads played well and were a credit to themselves and Australia," Media Liaison officer Richard Beazley was quoted as saying.

"Player of the Tour was Simon Bernadino from South Australia, closely followed by Chris Scuderi (Qld), Rhys Graham (WA) and Amied Shadmaan (ACT)," Beazley concluded.

MATCH ONE
Australian School Boys 5 def New Caledonia Under 16s 0
Goalscorers: Lewandowski, Fleiter, Groen, Agnello, Graham
MATCH TWO
Australian School Boys 10 def New Caledonia Under 16s 2 Goalscorers : Mitchell 5, Fleiter 2, Bernadino, Scuderi, Graham
MATCH THREE
Australian School Boys 3 def Vanuatu U/20s 2
Goalscorers : Graham, Mitchell, Lewandowski
MATCH FOUR
Australian School Boys 2 def Vanuatu U20s 1
Goalscorers : Graham, Fleiter
MATCH FIVE
Vanuatu 3 def Australian School Boys 0

CORRY ROASTS US REFEREE

By Bert van Bedaf

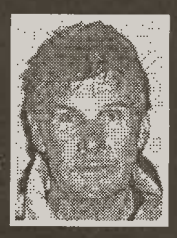
The mystery of Kevin Stott was not revealed after the match, but his on-field decisions during the top-of-the-table clash between title holder Wollongong Wolves and South Melbourne at Bob Jane stadium last Sunday were major points of discussion.

"I don't know anything about him," an NSL commissioner said after the game.

"He's an American referee. He's in Australia on an exchange program. I think he's in the country for a couple of weeks now. That's all I know."

Whoever Stott is, he made some woeful decisions that sent the crowd in a rage, angered the players and baffled the media.

They also had a major bearing on the outcome of the contest, according to Wollongong coach Ron Corry.


Ron Corry.

Stott ruled an apparent offside on-side, which gave Wolves the lead. He waved play-on when Matthew Horsley was believed to have been offside and Scott Chipperfield went on to score Wolves' opening goal in the 25th minute.

A minute later, he awarded South a penalty when apparently the foul (by Wolves keeper Grant Barlow on Vaughan Coveny) had not been committed, which resulted in South's equaliser by Paul Trimboli from the spot.

He did not give a yellow card when it was due, enabling George Souris to stay on the pitch in the 65th minute. Already on yellow for a first half offence, Souris fouled Con Boutsianis after the break with a blatantly yellow charge. It should have been his second bookable offence, resulting in a send-off.

In the 67th minute, he only cautioned Michael Petkovic for a professional foul, when the South 'keeper should have been sent off.

Corry was not impressed. "He could not referee an U8's game and Soccer Australia put him in charge of a game between two of the best teams in the country," Corry said.

"It cost us the game."

"It's criminal. (The result) it's got nothing to do with South Melbourne (how well the home team played). It's got to do with the officials at the game," he said.

AUSTRALIA	1
SOLOMON ISLANDS	0

GAME THREE

JOEYS PUSHED ALL THE WAY

Australia has faced its toughest competition yet at the Oceania Football Confederation Under-17 Qualifiers, a goal in the final minutes leading the Joeys to a 1-0 victory over the Solomon Islands.

Second half replacement Anthony Danze was the hero for the Joeys, netting the winner in the 88th minute, in a more evenly matched game for Australia.

The Joeys are now all but through to the next stage of the Qualifiers, a two-legged play off against the winner of Group B, which will be known in March next year.

"They made it pretty hard for us out there today, but I'm very pleased with the way the boys handled themselves," said coach Ange Postecoglou after the game.

"The Solomons played defensively, but our team didn't give up until the last minute, they kept doing the right thing, and it finally paid off.

"Our opposition sat back for the entire game, and we found it hard to break them down, but I was never really worried that we were in danger of losing the match.

"Our last game is against Samoa, and unless someone can make up 40 goals or so we're through, so I'll just continue using this opportunity to see players in

AUSTRALIA 1
(Anthony Danze 88)

SOLOMON ISLANDS 0

AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP:
Jacob Rex (gk); Rodney Madigan, Carl Valeri (capt), Predrag Bojic; Michael Brown, Russell Waller (Anthony Danze 46'), Steven Baveas, Ben Stevens (Massimo Murdocca 69'), Mario Karlovic; Brett Holman (Matthew Engele 65'), Terry Smith.

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ALEX's 445 ... NOT OUT

Continued from front page

In 1986, it was a two-legged Grand Final which the 'Black and Whites' very surprisingly lost the first 0-1 at the Hindmarsh Stadium against Sydney Olympic.

But a week later, and ironically at the Parramatta Stadium, Tobin's now new home-ground, and despite the fact that Zoran Matic's side was riddled with injuries, Adelaide City strongly stormed back to wipe out Olympic 1-3 to grab their very first of three League Championships.

Despite common belief, Tobin was not born in Adelaide, but in fact Melbourne, but his parents moved to Adelaide when Alex was only three years old.

"I made my debut with Adelaide City in an away game against South Melbourne at Middle Park back in 1984, but it wasn't a happy occasion.

"We lost to Souths that day.

"Over the many years I was with Adelaide City, I was most fortunate to have played with some really outstanding and great players.

"There was my captain and sweeper Bugsy Nyskohus, Sergio Melta, Milan Ivanovic, Joey Mullen, Robbie Zabica, the Vidmar brothers, (Aurelio and Tony), Brian Northcott, Stevie Maxwell, Damian Mori, Bradley Hassell, Jason Petkovic etc.

"They were some of the great players I had around me over all the years I was with Adelaide City," recalled Tobin.

In 16 years Tobin has played 17 seasons with Adelaide City before linking up this season with the Parramatta Power.

In 445 NSL games, the giant defender has managed to score 27 very valuable goals, including two with his new Club, the Power, this season.

As for coaches spanning his 16 years in the NSL, Tobin has had to serve only under five, of which four were all with Adelaide City.

Edmund Kraft was the first, (two seasons), Zoran Matic, (12 seasons), Johnny Perin (one), Johnny Nyskohus (two) and now is under Mitchell.

Was there anyone special in his long career that was most influential for Tobin?

"I'd like to think that I've been able to have learnt from a lot of people as I have never disregarded anyone at all.

"But I'd have to say that both Matic and Thomson have been the biggest influence," Tobin recalled.

The Power's pending new national match-record holder has signed a two year contract with Parramatta plus an attached option to stretch his playing career even further.

With his wife Caroline and their two sons, (Kielan 4, and Aidan just 10 months old), the Tobins have very quickly settled in Sydney.

By John Economos

Tobin added: "Kielan has even just joined his very first Soccer club.

"He's only recently registered with the Baulkham Hills Under 6s," ended the Power's champion sweeper and experienced captain.

The Power's coach, Mitchell, saluted Tobin's pending all-time record last night when contacted by ABSW.

"Alex is an icon in Australian Soccer.

"He never really plays a bad game and always seems to keep his two feet on the ground.

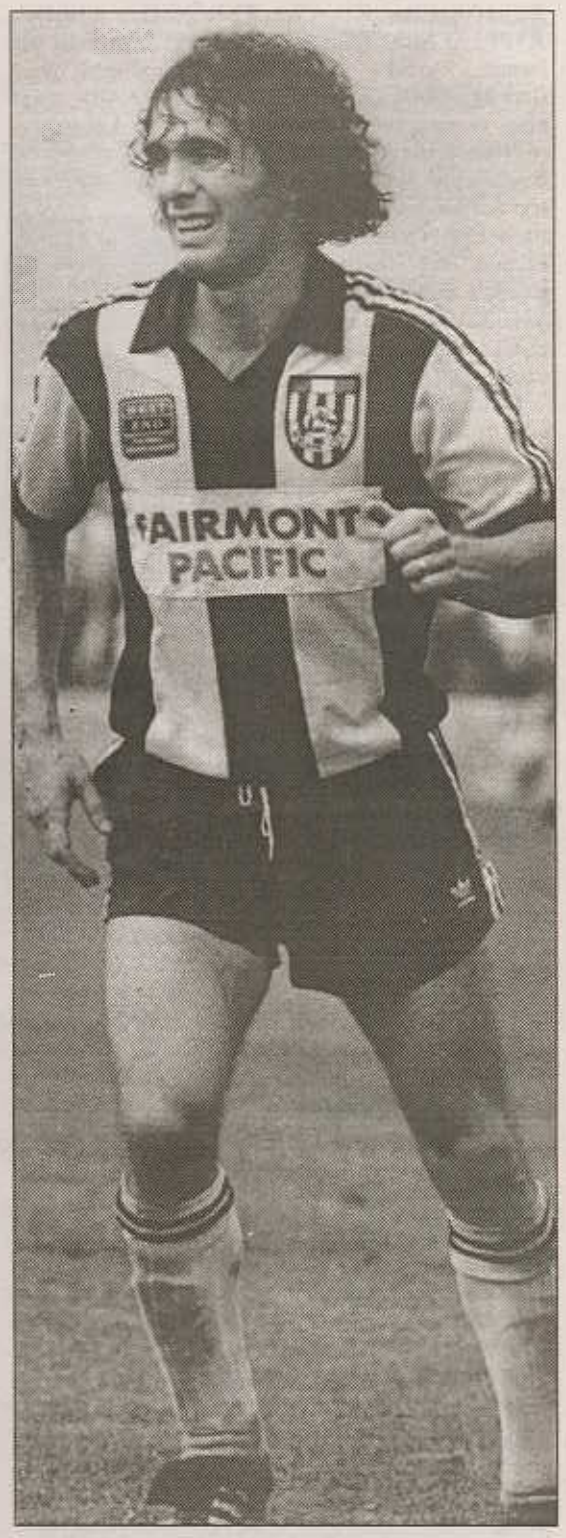
"He always talks sense and I regard him as a personal friend," ended Mitchell.

Alex Tobin: The Power's captain, poised to break NSL record this Saturday night in Bathurst.

Battle scarred Australian captain, Alex Tobin against New Zealand at the Bob Jane Stadium in January 1997.

Melta in Sydney Tomorrow

The Parramatta Power administrators, tomorrow morning, (Wednesday), will fly into Sydney from Adelaide, none other than Adelaide City's former great, Sergio Melta, for a special promotion and photo shoot with Tobin, at the Parramatta Stadium.



The magnificent Sergio Melta, former all time NSL match record-holder.

THIRD BIDDER FOR CARLTON

Continued from front page

Cuteri said to take over the club the consortium needed an immediate budget of $3 million. It stood to lose $1 million this season and needed to budget another $1 million for the next season to cover basic costs and wages.

"We're out of the race. We had a good chance. But a few people pulled out. It meant too much money for two people. There were so many things we weren't comfortable with," he said.

Cuteri's advisor, Fernando Dimasi confirmed the pull-out, basically over the high cost of players' wages and other outstanding financial uncertainties.

Carlton coach Stuart Munro.

"We've decided to withdraw our offer. We needed at least $5 million over the next three years. The wages were just too exorbitant," Fernando said.

"The players might be taking a wage cut now. But when they're renegotiating contracts they could go up again. We might be running the risk of losing lots of dollars.

"It became a very expensive exercise and there were a lot of black holes. We were not prepared to commit ourselves without viewing important documents. It was something that could not be worked out in 24 hours.

"Time was against us," he ended.

Carlton skipper Andrew Marth with Simon Colomiso.

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

FRANZ ('Der Kaiser') BECKENBAUER, the former great West Germany World Cup winning captain, who then went on to win the World Cup as coach for his country, last week released to the European media, in his opinion, that Manchester United's David Beckham was his choice as today's greatest player in the world.

The great Beckenbauer's most treasured opinion was very pleasing to 'Good Oil'.

Twice during this year, 'Good Oil' highlighted Beckham as a great player.

Not only is he a goal-scorer, but is a lethal crosser of the ball with radar-accuracy that produces goals for others.

Franz Beckenbauer: The great former West German World Cup captain and coach.

Beckenbauer's highly valuable evaluation, simply endorsed 'Good Oil's' high rating.

The former West German captain and coach strongly underlined that it's Beckham's consistancy that won his rating.

●●●●

BRANKO CULINA, Sydney Olympic's coach who remained solely undefeated in the first seven Rounds of the League, last Sunday night suffered the indignity of his second con-

Branko Culina: Sydney Olympic's coach.

secutive defeat, going down 0-2 to the Parramatta Power at the Belmore Sports Ground.

In the after-match conference, Culina blamed much of his plight at not having any specialised strikers signed up.

"It's no secret that we have no recognised strikers at the Club.

"Carle (Nick) and Owens (Greg), are not recognised strikers."

But wasn't this the case from Day One when Olympic's 27 year old goal-ace Pablo Cardozo, left the Club in the NSL's off-season to play in the Greek First division?

By the way, and as exclusively disclosed in 'Good Oil' last week, Cardozo is now already back in Sydney.

●●●●

THE PARRAMATTA POWER's administrators tomorrow morning, (Wednesday), will fly into Sydney, none other than former Adelaide City's magnificent midfielder, Sergio Melta, who had initially set the all-time NSL record for most matches played in the League, (445).

Last Sunday night at the Belmore Sports Ground in Sydney, Melta's former team-mate at Adelaide City, now with the Power, Alex Tobin, equalled that magnificent record.

To mark this very special occasion, Melta has wisely and most honourably been invited by the Power's administration to come to Sydney for a special media conference and historic photo shoot with the Power's captain, Tobin, tomorrow morning at the Parramatta Stadium.

Sergio Melta: The Power's very special guest at the Parramatta Stadium tomorrow morning.

These two great players between them have racked up a colossal 890 games in the National League.

●●●●

CYCLONE SAM last week most tragically struck the northern region of Western Australia.

Also last week, but much further South in W.A., Alistair Edwards, the Perth Glory's former international striker, took a cyclonic first step into entering the field of politics, would you believe?

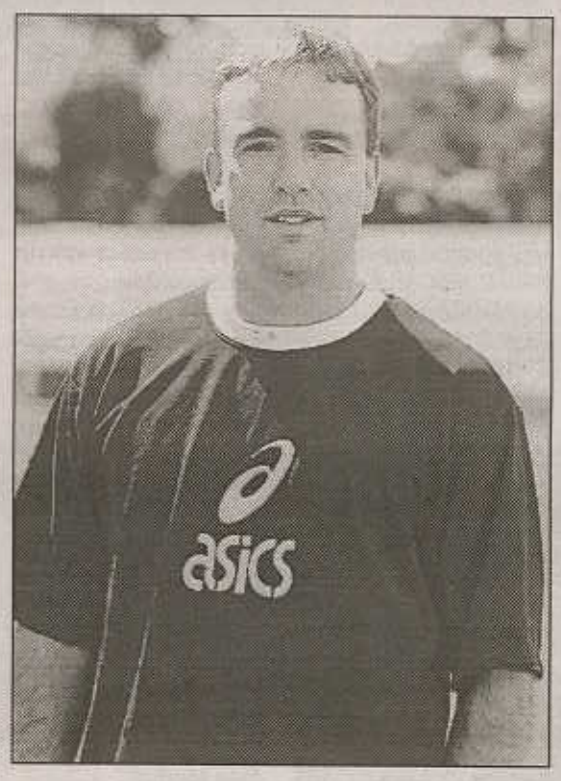
Last week, (and completely right out of the blue), the left footed striking Edwards scored 'another goal', this time when he was elected as a Councillor to Cockburn Council.

'Good Oil', fully anticipates, that within a year, many Soccer fields are expected to mushroom within the Municipality of Cockburn.

Remember, you saw it here first, in 'Good Oil'.

●●●●

STEVE BERRY, the Parramatta Power's experienced midfielder, was saluted by his coach David Mitchell after the match last Sunday against Sydney Olympic.



Steve Berry: Veteran midfielder fills in as striker.

Despite feeling a bit crook, the heroic Berry answered Mitchell's call to fill in as a make-shift striker, joining striker Joe Miller upfront in the Power's attack against Olympic.

"Great credit must go to Berry who was still feeling a bit sick before the match.

"Steve also had other problems when his wife had collapsed during the week, suffering from the same illness," Mitchell stated to the media.

●●●●

LAST Wednesday night, a well-known NSL midfielder, during a training game against that Club's Youth team, physically attacked an 18 year old opponent-midfielder.

Wednesday's training game unfortunately, was allowed to develop into a heated affair, which has, (unwisely), frequently happened over the years at many clubs .

Suddenly, all hell broke loose as the senior midfielder exploded, lost it, and launched himself into lashing out with rapid punches to the 18 year olds head.

Officials immediately suspended the senior player from the Club's last weekend NSL home match.

Later the Club imposed on the villain a $2,000 fine for striking the youngster.

But that may not prove to be enough punishment.

Sources informed 'Good Oil' that last week's ugly incident may soon involve the bringing in of the Police with pending charges of outright physical assault.

●●●●

JASON PETKOVIC, the Perth Glory's outstanding international gloakeeper, who celebrated his 28th birthday last Thursday, made extra sure he kept a clean sheet last Sunday night when the Glory trounced Newcastle United 4-0 at the Perth Oval.

In recent times, when these two teams have met, the Novocastrians had always proved a thorn in the Glory's side.

But a dazzling double from striker Bobby Despotovski, plus another two from Edgar Junior and Jamie Harnwell, assured the Glory that recent history would not be repeated.

●●●●

IT SEEMS that the Victorian Soccer Federation has shown far more economic sanity, (let alone responsibility), than the NSL or its member clubs.

In recent weeks, ABSW revealed that the Victorian State body would be imposing a 'salary-cap' on players

The 'cap' on players' payments, as of next season, will be limited to a total of $85,000 per season per club in the Victorian Premier League.

State League clubs will have their season payrolls 'capped' at $40,000.

The V.S.F.'s C.E.O. Geoff Miles, at the time, also revealed that any of the Victorian clubs found breaking the strictly laid down rules would automatically be heavily penalised for any 'ambitious' breechings of the now stipulated 'cap'.

Offending players caught involved in such breechings, would become exposed to automatic deregistration by the V.S.F.

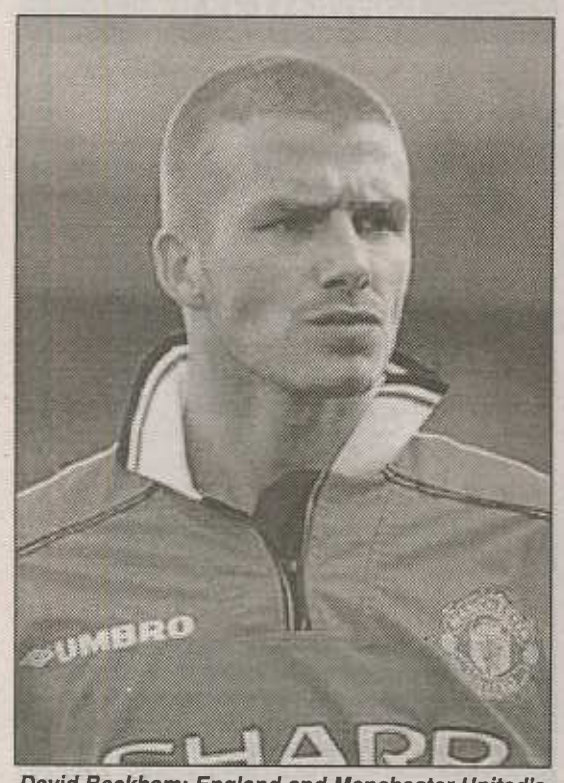
Some urgently needed sanity at last.

Geoff Miles: The VSF's CEO, pioneers economic Soccer sanity.

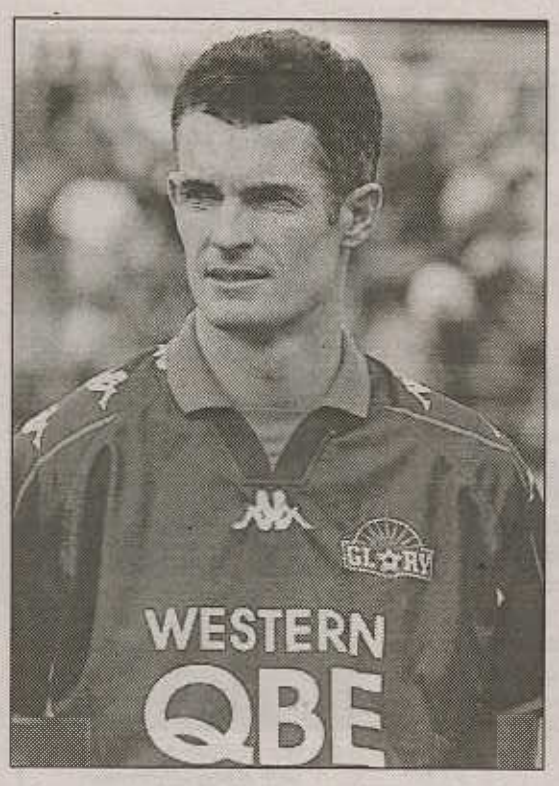
In contrast, 'Good Oil' two weeks ago was approached by an NSL Club official, who bleated:

"I don't know how much longer we can hang out.

Jason Petkovic: The Perth Glory's international goalkeeper.



David Beckham: England and Manchester United's most valuable right flank playmaker.



Alistair Edwards: Soccer striker turns politician.

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

By John Economos

"Our weekly wage bill has rocketted to some $55,000 per week whilst at the same time our crowds this season have been diving," ended the distraught clubman.

Well, who's to blame?

Isn't it all about economic management?

'Good Oil' still vividly remembers some years back, when a club Treasurer got up at the A.G.M. and lamented:

"Due to the scratching of Fine Cotton, I've unfortunately been unable to balance the books."

Marvellous.

●●●●

IF CARLTON was to be expelled late last night, (Monday), from the NSL for its financial inability to complete the current season, after ABSW had gone to press, it's expected that there could be a mad stampede by some of the other 15 NSL clubs to swoop in to sign up their players.

Automatically the two Carlton star targets unquestionably would be striker Archie Thompson and goalscoring international defender, Simon Colosimo.

Last week leaking out to the Sydney media was a report that Marconi was set to snap up Thompson.

However a strong communique quickly fired out by Marconi's Soccer manager, Frank Labbozzetta, heatedly denied that rumour.

Labbozzetta fired out with: "Reports that Archie Thompson has signed with our Club are totally false.

"We have not had any communications with Carlton Soccer Club, or Thompson.

"Whilst we are aware that Carlton is experiencing a few difficulties at the moment, until such time that Archie or any other Carlton player, is officially sanctioned as 'free to be spoken to', our position remains", ended the Marconi communique.

If Marconi did desire to ultimately have Thompson on board with their playing staff, 'Good Oil' is expecting a very powerful challenge to be launched by another club, should the 'green light' be flashed by Soccer Australia.

●●●●

THE WOLLONGONG WOLVES's coach Ronnie Corry, late last week signed up English goalscoring midfielder, Max Nicholson for the balance of the current NSL season.

Following a month's trials with the current NSL Champions, the 29 year old English import had previously played over 200 league games with Doncaster Rovers, Hereford United as well as for Scunthorpe United.

Archie Thompson: Targetted by clubs.

Ronnie Corry: Wollongong Wolves' coach.

The last four years Nicholson has been playing in Singapore, scoring 30 goals in the process as well as being voted 'Player Of The Year' in 1997.

●●●●

SOCCER and RUGBY LEAGUE have had absolutely nothing in common.

In fact for years these two codes have been nothing but bitter enemies in the sporting pages up and down the Eastern seaboard.

However something strange, (if not ironically), happened recently.

Rugby League's former 'gun chief', the powerful John Quayle, entered into a partnership deal with a current, high profiled NSL Club official.

What a blend?

In a joint venture, these two heavies have linked up to purchase a vineyard in Queensland

'Good Oil' has been able to ascertain that over the years, there's been absolutely no sour grapes between these two guys.

Right now, both are sincerely hoping that the same will apply of their new investment.

With Christmas rapidly approaching, 'Good Oil' just had to disclose this, as it couldn't bottle it up any longer.

●●●●

EDDIE THOMSON, the former Australian World Cup coach who has been coaching in Japan for the past four years, was due to return to Australia this month.

Having ended his contract with J-League side, Sanfrecce Hiroshima, it has been strongly rumoured that Thomson was going to be lured to Marconi as a senior Technical Director.

Not so.

Thomson in fact recently stated to 'Good Oil' that he wanted to spend at least four or five months, completely out of Soccer, to tour by road around Australia with his beloved wife, Pauline.

"I'd love to take some time out to smell the flowers," Thomson told 'Good Oil', as was suggested to him by Pauline.

However Big Ed was suddenly diverted to Scotland where his older brother has been struck down by a serious illness.

●●●●

THE 2002 World Cup Finals to be co-hosted in Japan and South Korea, are rapidly looming.

As disclosed by 'Good Oil' some months ago, the Nine Network has secured the exclusive Australian television rights to this super mega-sporting event.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

As was also first disclosed by 'Good Oil' at the time, the Nine Network intended to cover only the last 16 matches, including the Final, out of the total 64 played.

Now 'Good Oil' can also disclose, that Nine's World Cup coverage will have as a very strong possiblity, a joint-anchor man in the studio, who happens to be a current coach from the NSL.

●●●●

JOE MILLER, the Parramatta Power's import striker, has quickly found his footing in the NSL.

Last Sunday night at the Belmore Sports Ground, the quality and experienced marksman, twice nailed the target, once in each half, to give the Power a most deserving 0-2 win over a partially depleted Sydney Olympic.

The marauding Miller has now lifted his personal tally to five goals, joining five others as the NSL's joint-third highest goalscorers to date.

Joe Miller: The Power's hot-shot import striker.

Carlton's Archie Thompson still remains the League's top goalscorer with six, jointly with South Melbourne's mobile man, Andy Vlahos.

●●●●

STRAINED RELATIONSHIPS have built up between a current NSL coach and his General manager this season. They have progressively deteriorated now to an unacceptable level.

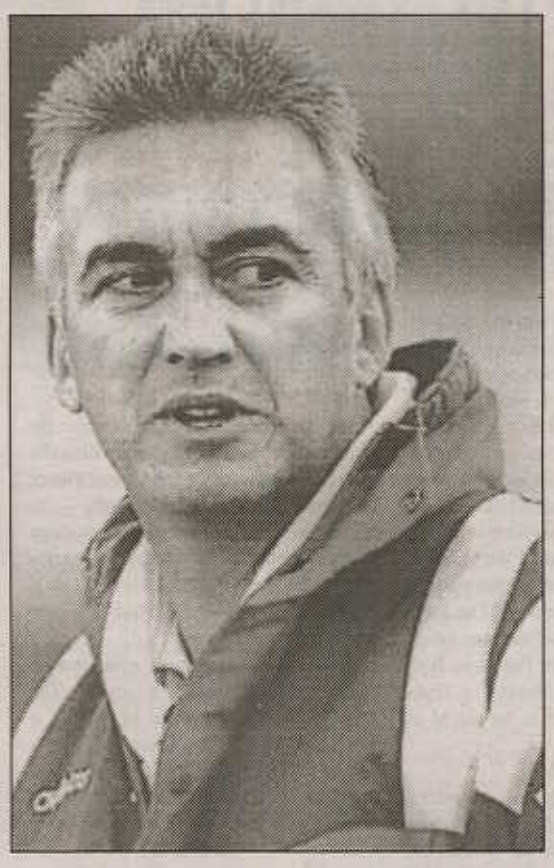
Three weeks ago, the situation reached flash-point when the manager most embarrassingly barked out to his coach, (and in front of two of his players): "You are finished with this Club.

"You no longer have my support," ended said manager.

The frustrated coach hit back with: "So what's new?"

Something along the lines of putting a fire out with petrol.

Very sad in this day and age of Australian so called, 'professional Soccer'.



Eddie Thomson: Gone to Scotland, not Australia.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

Is proud to announce its promotion to Division One of the NSW Soccer Federation and the appointment of Stewart Porter as our new first grade coach.

Players are invited to attend pre-season trials for our U21 and U18 squads which will take place: On 9th and 16th December 2000 (both Saturdays)

Venue:
At John's College Oval, Sydney University
(entry off Missenden Road)

Time: 10.00am

For further details please contact:
Simon Philips (9380 8553),
Jim Zamitt (9743 3123) or
Chris Bowman (9552 6429)

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|U|T|S|

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY

After the success of season 2000, the Division 5 Champions, UTS, are looking for EXPERIENCED PLAYERS for our NSW Men's State League teams competing in Div 4 in season 2001.

Pre-Season training and trials will commence on Wednesday 6th December 2000. Training nights will vary to accommodate players schedule. Pre-season training will take place at Centennial Park.

For further details, please contact: Manny Spanoudakis (1st Grade Coach) on 0414-464373

SYDNEY OLYMPIC F.C.

Super Youth League Trials

Sydney Olympic F.C.

The above Club still has quite a few vacancies left for its Under 15s Super Youth League squad.

All interested players should contact as soon as possible:

Mr Chris Bouzanis
Tel: (02) 04185 11488

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

REBIRTH OF SA SUMMER SERIES

After a seven-season hiatus, South Australian Premier League and State League soccer fans at last will be able to enjoy a full-scale Summer Series in the new-year.

Ampol Petroleum sponsored Australia's longest running summer soccer night tournament from 1960 to 1993 before Fairmont Homes filled the void for the next three years.

Past pre-winter season competitions have been played exclusively at Hindmarsh Stadium and while SA's headquarters stadium will be used extensively for the 2001 version, the home grounds of participating teams will be used for Saturday games.

Clubs will doubtless welcome the chance to generate funds through bar and canteen takings, while the public should appreciate the maximum admission charge of $5 for Adults and the $3 concessions, with Children under 12 admitted free of charge.

Raiders will be the exception, playing their two Saturday matches away on opposition grounds because their new Croatia Sports Complex will not be completed until the winter season.

Five groups of nominated teams will do battle for the honours with each team in each group playing every other team twice.

At the end of the round robin section, the top team from each group will progress to the quarter-finals, along with the three best second placed teams.

The series looms as ideal preparation for the winter competitions with 67 games played over the nine-week period.

SA Summer Night Series 2001 kicks-off on Monday, January 15, with the final scheduled for March 12, allowing a 19-day breathing space until the start of the winter campaign.

Double headers will be staged at Hindmarsh Stadium with 6pm and 8pm start times, while the kick-off times for Saturday matches at club grounds will be flexible to compensate for weather conditions.

Five substitutes will be allowed for the summer competition. A provision that is sure to please media organisations, calls for squads to be made available for publication not later than two days before the scheduled game.

During the finals, the Golden Goal ruling will apply during extra-time to decide drawn games.

State League side Western Strikers have been drawn in the "Group of Death" being pitted against Premier League trio Modbury Jets, Croydon Kings and White City Woodville.

The top five teams and the best three second placed teams move into the Quarter-finals, the winners of which qualifies for the Semi-finals.

Group A: Noarlunga Bulldogs, Seaford Surfers, Para Hills Knights, Raiders.

Group B: Blue Eagles, Cumberland Foxes, Cobras, Enfield Falcons.

Group C: Port Lion Pirates, Hills Hawks, Metro Stars, Olympic FC.

Group D: Adelaide City, Panthers, Campbelltown Red Devils, Birkalla.

Group E: Croydon Kings, White City Warriors, Modbury Jets, Western Strikers.

SA 2001 SUMMER NIGHT SERIES DRAW

ROUND 1

Monday, Jan 15 — Hindmarsh Stadium
Cobras v Enfield Falcons (6pm);
Croydon Kings v White City (8pm)
Saturday, Jan 20.
Noarlunga v Seaford (Wilf Taylor Reserve)
Para Hills v Raiders (The Paddocks)
Blue Eagles v Cumberland
(Marden Sports Centre)
Port Lion v Hills Hawks (Pirate Park)
Metro Stars v Olympic FC
(TK Shutter Reserve)
Adelaide City v Panthers (Oakden)
Campbelltown v Birkalla
(Newton Sports Field)
Mobury v Western Strikers
(Golden Grove Reserve)

ROUND 2

Monday, Jan 22 (Hindmarsh Stadium)
Hills Hawks v Metro Stars (6pm);
Panthers v Campbelltown (8pm)
Saturday, Jan 27
Seaford v Para Hills (Karingal Reserve)
Raiders v Noarlunga (Wilf Taylor Reserve)
Cobras v Cumberland (Camden Reserve)
Enfield Falcons v Blue Eagles'
(Rushworth Reserve)
Olympic v Port Lion (Ferryden Park)
Birkalla v Adelaide City (Camden Reserve)
White City v Modbury (Woodville West)
Western Strikers v Croydon Kings
(Carnegie Reserve)

ROUND 3

Monday, Jan 29 (Hindmarsh Stadium)
Noarlunga v Para Hills (6pm);
Raiders v Seaford (8pm)
Saturday, February 3
Blue Eagles v Cobras
(Marden Sports Centre)
Cumberland v Enfield Falcons
(Bailey Reserve)
Port Lion v Metro Stars (Pirate Park)
Hills Hawks v Olympic (Karinya Reserve)
Adelaide City v Campbelltown (Oakden)
Panthers v Birkalla (O'Sullivan Beach)
Croydon Kings v Modbury Jets
(Polonia Reserve)
White City v Western Strikers
(Woodville West).

ROUND 4

Monday, February 5
(Hindmarsh Stadium)
Cumberland v Blue Eagles (6pm);
Western Strikers v Modbury (8pm)
Saturday, February 10.
Seaford v Noarlunga (Karingal Reserve)
Raiders v Para Hills (The Paddocks)
Enfield v Cobras (Rushworth Reserve)
Hills Hawks v Port Lion (Karinya Reserve)
Olympic v Metro Stars (Ferryden Park)
Panthers v Adelaide City (OíSullivan Beach)
Birkalla v Campbelltown (Camden Reserve)
White City Warriors v Croydon Kings
(Woodville West)

ROUND 5

Monday, February 12
(Hindmarsh Stadium)
Cumberland v Cobras (6pm);
Adelaide City v Birkalla (8pm)
Wednesday, February 12
(Hindmarsh Stadium)
Campbelltown v Panthers (6pm);
Port Lion v Olympic (8pm)
Saturday, February 17
Noarlunga v Raiders
(Wilf Taylor Reserve)
Para Hills v Seaford (The Paddocks)
Blue Eagles v Enfield
(Marden Sports Centre)
Metro Stars v Adelaide Hawks
(Shutter Reserve)
Croydon v Western Strikers
(Polonia Reserve)
Modbury v White City
(Golden Grove)

ROUND 6

Monday, February 19
(Hindmarsh Stadium)
Raiders v Seaford (6pm);
Olympic v Adelaide Hawks (8pm)
Wednesday, February 21
(Hindmarsh Stadium)
Metro Stars v Port Lion (6pm); Modbury v Croydon (8pm)
Saturday, February 24
Para Hills v Noarlunga
(The Paddocks)
Cobras v Blue Eagles
(Marden Sports Centre)
Enfield v Cumberland (Rushworth Reserve)
Campbelltown v Adelaide City
(Newton Sports Field)
Birkalla v Panthers (Camden Reserve)
Western Strikers v White City
(Carnegie Reserve).

QUARTER-FINALS

Monday, February 26 (Hindmarsh Stadium)
Game 1: A 1 v 3rd second placed team
Game 2: B 1 v 2nd second placed team
Wednesday, Feb 28 (Hindmarsh Stadium)
Game 3: C 1 v E 1
Game 4: D 1 v 1st second placed team

SEMI-FINALS

Monday, March 3 (Hindmarsh Stadium)
Game 5: Winner game 1 v winner game 4
Game 6: Winner game 3 v winner game 2

FINAL

Monday, March 12 (Hindmarsh Stadium)
Game 7: Winner game 5 v winner game 6

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Website Well Used — According to Wollongong Wolves General Manager Graeme Haney, the club's website is being used extensively by the supporters after offering Live radio coverage of Wolves away matches. It was first introduced for the game last month against the Melbourne Knights. Keep an eye out for more games.

■■■■

English Midfield Player signed — much travelled professional Max Nicholson has signed for the club until the end of this season. The 29-year-old has been trialling for a month until his ongoing visa problems were sorted out. His experience could prove useful for the Wolves, having played over 200 league games in England with Doncaster Rovers, Hereford United and Scunthorpe as well playing four years in Singapore where he has scored over 30 goals and was voted Player of the Year in 1997. Nicholson intends to make the starting line-up and prove himself in the NSL.

■■■■

George Souris Committed — the well respected defender now just rounding the 30 year mark, has signed a two year contract extension with the Wolves. This is great for the club and Souris will now most likely will see his playing career out at Wollongong. With such a key member of the squad pledging his future to the Wolves, things are looking good for coach Ron Corry.

■■■■

Dino Mennillo in Scotland - With a two week suspension to be served the midfielder flew out to Scotland for a trial with Dundee United. Mennillo is the second Wolves players to trail in Europe in as many weeks after Scott Chipperfield returning last week from a stint with Bolton Wanderers.

■■■■

Stern Defender Back in Action — Alvin Ceccoli was back in the Wolves starting line-up against Newcastle and came through the match with flying colours and more importantly no signs of a nagging leg injury.

Ceccoli has been out of action since the beginning of the season due to a stress fracture to his shin. Great to see him back for the first time since last year's Grand Final in Perth.

■■■■

Corry Backs Youth - the Wolves coach is known to give youngsters a chance, his philosophy is "if you are good enough, you are old enough", an old adage. The following youngsters have been given playing time with the Wolves, a number making their NSL debuts recently including, George Norah, Frank Barila, Steven Dimitrievski, Jay Lucas, Paul O'Grady and Ben Blake who has made the sweeper position his own. Prior to this season he made only a few appearances but is now a real find and regular starting player.

■■■■

Joeys Team — Wolves youngster 15 years old Jay Lucas has made the starting line-up of the Australian U/17 national team for the World Cup qualifiers in Samoa. The youngster has signed for English Premier League Club Southampton when he turns 17 for an apprenticeship. The Joeys team also includes Shellharbour based Parramatta Power defender Peg Bojic. Both hope to reach the 2001 World Cup finals with the Australian team to be played in Trinidad and Tobago.

■■■■

Harmony Cup -the cup wass the centrepiece of a special NSL initiative for last Sunday's game between the Wolves an South Melbourne. It is intended to combat racism in sport. The aim is to promote racial tolerance in society.

■■■■

Stanton Goal Bound — who would have looked at Robbie Stanton, a steady defender for the Wolves over the years, to hit the net twice in one game. It happened against Newcastle and settled the issue. In over 270 NSL appearances Stanton has only scored three goals prior to this season's explosion.

■■■■

Illawarra Soccer Referees — are concerned of developments. A delegation of the Referees Association recently approached the Board of Soccer Illawarra for a frank discussion about certain items for consideration.

Playing surfaces for games in all soccer divisions must be of high quality to guarantee not only good soccer but of most importance is the health of players and prevent injuries possible due to poor field surfaces.

Another point raised concerns the expanded competition of Soccer Illawarra with the inclusion of Campbelltown, Picton, Mittagong, Nowra and Helensburgh.

While the wider spread of soccer is a sign of growing strength the referees are requires to do extra travelling. It also brings with it additional recruitment and retaining of new and experienced referees.

Numerous law changes even though minor apply for the new season. The Referees Association plans to conduct a pre-season launch for all members with a lecture on law changes. The clubs interested should approach Soccer Illawarra to request referees to be available for explanations.

■■■■

CORTES HOLD UP

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni shook his head and called it a saga. Once again, it seemed, the club would be without the services of the player they so desperately want to sign.

For the last month there have been predictions that Uruguayan midfielder Milton Cortes would be making his debut for the Cosmos at that weekend's game, each time the prediction proved premature.

Amarildo Miglietti: The situation involving Cortes is similar to his.

First it was the Australian Department of Immigration insisting that Cortes, who was in Australia as a tourist, had to leave the country before applying for a sports visa which would allow him to play, and be paid, by the Cosmos.

Then there were hold-ups involving the Uruguayan Football Association, now it appears there are "technical problems" with the player's former club in Uruguay.

To an outsider, the situation looks ominously similar to that of the Cosmos' former Portuguese defender, Amarildo Miglietti, whose previous club refused to grant a clearance because they claimed the player owed them money. They were unable to produce any evidence and the clearance went ahead over their heads, but not until several weeks had elapsed.

Sermanni said if the issue is still unresolved this week, the Cosmos will be asking Soccer Australia to take the case direct to FIFA.

The club has also enlisted the aid of the Uruguayan Ambassador, Pablo Sader, who comes from the same town as Cortes and is a frequent attender at Cosmos games.

The coach, who is trying to cope with a growing list of injuries, said he would be "extremely disappointed" if Cortes was not available for this week's game with Sydney Olympic at Bruce Stadium.

Meanwhile, despite an ample supply of rumours and speculation last week, there was still no news of a major sponsor for the National League club.

Sermanni answered questions by saying he knew nothing.

"That's a matter for the board and the chairman," he said.

Chairman Danny Moulis is also keeping quiet about the identity of the sponsor and the amount involved, although the sum of $250,000 a year for an unspecified period has been mentioned.

What is known is that the money raised by Moulis from a wide range of individuals, small and medium sponsors during the winter is likely to run out some time this month. There has been no relief from crowd revenues which remain stubbornly below the break-even point for the cost of hiring Bruce Stadium.

Harper and Masi regaining full fitness

Newcastle News

By Greg Danvers

Anthony Magnacca signed only a week ago by Newcastle United, maybe the last out of town signing for sometime to come.

Owner Con Constantine believes there are many talented football prospects in the region and has scouts looking around to see who of the locals will fit in at United.

"The talent is here in Newcastle," Constantine said.

"One of our jobs is to identify and develop those players."

With the NBN Soccer League reduced from 12 to 10 clubs for next season, the quality of players in the First Division run by Northern NSW will improve and their prospects of being identified enhanced.

Several players from the local competition have been identified and with several youngsters from the region currently at the AIS under consideration the amount of local product in the squad overtime will increase.

Esala Masi: Returning to training.

Andy Harper: Nearing full fitness.

★★★

Former Wollongong striker Esala Masi, after injuring a knee early in the season, is nearing a return to full training. The brace was removed from his leg last week.

Masi is confident of a return to full training this week and believes he will be available for selection sooner rather than later.

★★★

United have been without striker Andy Harper all season but the veteran of 304 NSL games with 98 goals on his scoresheet is also nearing full fitness.

A broken toe from the Breakers pre-season has kept 'Harps' sidelined but was last week seen jogging at Marathon Stadium.

Just how long before he renews his up-front partnership John 'Jockey' Buonavoglia is not known. Surely with the gills exchanged for training shoes 'Harps' is close to a return.

Harper while unable to run was spending an incredible amount of time in the pool so much so that the gills had started to grow on his neck.

★★★

United management are working feverishly to find an alternative training facility for the side as the extra traffic on Marathon Stadium causes wear and tear on the surface.

The ground will survive with the current usage through the summer but concern has been raised as to the long-term effect on the ground when both United and the Rugby League team Newcastle Knights are playing on the ground.

Currently the Knights train at the University and Empire but as their season gets closer they too will need to train on the ground in preparation for their games.

★★★

With Newcastle being a one-team town in both Football codes the relationship between the clubs was strengthened last week when both squads trained together at Marathon Stadium.

United coach Lee Sterrey and Knights coach Michael Hagan compared notes on fitness, skill and speed coaching techniques with both gleaning new ideas.

SOUTHS ACTS THE QUIET ACHIEVER

By Bert van Bedaf

While city rivals Melbourne Knights go through a coaching crisis and playing slump and Carlton continues to be deeply embroiled in a life or death battle, South Melbourne has been busy acting the quiet achiever.

After eight rounds, the Lakesiders were comfortably placed in third position, behind leaders Sydney Olympic and champions Wollongong Wolves.

In doing so, they recorded a club milestone. The South attack has been averaging two goals per game (16), while its defence has conceded less than a goal per match (seven).

It is the club's best performance since it joined the NSL as a founding member in 1977, according to club records.

With 1998/99 goal keeper of the year Michael Petkovic under the bar and veteran Mehmet Durakovic marshalling the defensive line-up, that also includes experienced left back Fausto DeAmicis, South still boasts a formidable backline.

Mehmet Durakovic: Marshalling the defence.

But the feat is especially remarkable considering the club suffered injuries to defender Steve Iosifidis (just returned into the team after two months) and the absence of Robert Liparoti (out for the season with a knee reconstruction). The club also lost defender Nick Orlic in the off-season to Parramatta Power.

Midfielder David Clarkson has stepped into the defensive breach and young star Patrick Kisnorbo has shown maturity in his utility role.

Now South has signed 19-year-old defender Nick Tolios on loan for six months from Greek first division club Ethnikos Asteras to cover the loss of Liparoti.

Tolios hails from Carlton before going on trial at English Premier League club Aston Villa and eventually signing for Ethnikos last December.

"Playing overseas was a fantastic experience, but it's not easy when you leave on your own. Now that I'm back here, I want to want help South Melbourne as much as I can. Hopefully, I can cement a regular spot in the team and play a part in South's championship endeavor," Tolios said.

Meanwhile, Chris Jones, last season's regular keeper, now back-up to Petkovic, may miss the rest of the season with a hip injury and may need to undergo an operation.

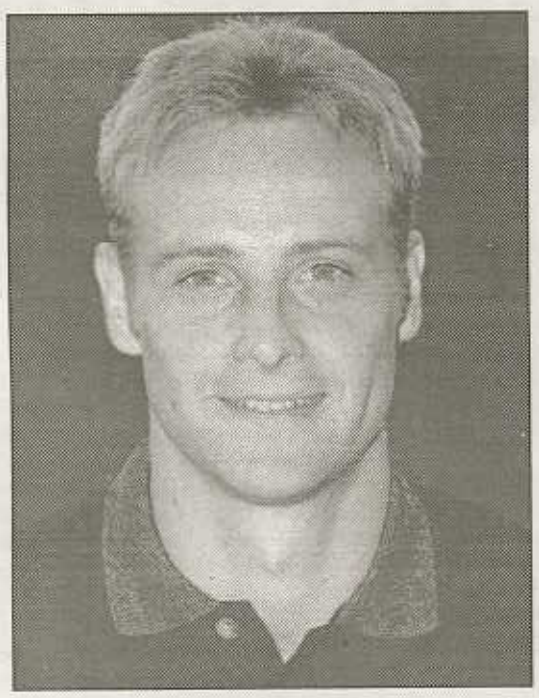
SCOTT HAPPY TO SIT BACK

By Graham Cooke

New Zealander Brad Scott is happy to sit on the bench while Mark Hagger and Jon Angelucci do the business for Canberra Cosmos, but has no fears of taking a more complete role if called upon.

The striker made his mark against the powerful South Melbourne at Bruce Stadium, scoring within two minutes of coming on to the field in the second half and giving South some anxious moments before they ended as 3-1 winners.

"Yes, I was delighted to score, but unhappy it was not enough to help the team," he said.



Brad Scott: Happy to bite his time on the bench.

The Kiwi international said his games for the All Whites had given him a taste for the big time, and the NSL held no fears for him.

"The NSL is certainly a step up from the New Zealand National League, which is about the same standard as the NSW Superleague," he said.

"However, I spent so much time away on international duty, I played only seven club games last season."

He had decided to come to Australia after it became clear there would be no place for him in the Auckland Kingz line-up.

"For the moment at least, playing for the Cosmos is the best possible way to develop my career," the 23-year-old said.

AUSSIE SENTENCED FOR MATCH-FIXING

Mirko Jurilj: Sentenced for match-fixing.

Former Sydney United player Mirko Jurilj has been sentenced to five months in a Singapore jail after being found guilty of match fixing.

The ruling, handed down by District Judge Foo Chee Hock over the weekend, follows allegations Jurilj, who plays as a defender, played below par in three matches in order to make some money from the result.

Jurilj, who played for the Sembawang Rangers Football Club in the Singapore S-League, struck the deal with Sivakumar Madasasmy who laid bets on these matches on behalf of Jurilj who had assured that the three games discussed would end in winning bets. These assumptions did not occur.

Jurilj and family members were devastated with the ruling however the player was freed on 120,000 Singapore dollars ($A130,275) bail while deciding whether to appeal.

Carlton's fight for surivival nearing a climax

STARS MIGHT BE BORN

By Bert van Bedaf

If negotiations are successful, Melbourne might see the demise of the Carlton Blues and the birth of the Melbourne Stars, playing in the northern suburbs at Epping stadium.

The changes may not be not be in place immediately, but the name change and Epping playing venue are part of the businesses consortium bidding to buy the Carlton Soccer Club from financially trapped owner Peter Jess.

Talks between La Ionica Poultry businessman and consortium head Sam Cuteri and Carlton owner Peter Jess reached a stalemate last Thursday, causing the postponement of Carlton's round 9 away match against Adelaide City Force last Friday.

But the consortium is positive an agreement can be reached, according to its spokesman Fernando Dimasi.

It is believed the sale evolves around a bid between $1 million and $1.3 million, with the gap between offer and acceptance lying somewhere around $200,000, which apparently refers to outstanding wages. The wages bill, meanwhile, has blown out to a reported $350,000.

Soccer Australia set the parties a 5pm Monday deadline to resolve the issue, according to Dimasi last week.

The Cuteri consortium of Melbourne northern suburbs businessmen have firmed as the front-runner to take over as owner of the financially stricken club.

An eleventh-hour bid by Adelaide businessman Con Makris was rejected out of hand by Jess.

"We've reached a stalemate at the moment. There's a Monday deadline, but we're optimistic and quietly confident that we can succeed," Dimasi said last Friday.

"There are still a few issues outstanding, that evolve around finances. The consortium has put something in writing and it's the only (offer) there is.

"It's up to Jess now. He has the final say. But if I were him, I would accept. We were very close already and I believe something good will come out of it," he said.

It is believed Dimasi also had discussions with highly-prized players Simon Colosimo and Archie Thompson, who walked out on the embattled club last week.

"It is good to get the support from the players," Dimasi said.

Midfielder and Socceroo Colosimo as well as striker and Olyroo Thompson were linked with Sydney club Marconi Stallions last week, but the star duo may stay at Carlton, if the consortium can facilitate a positive outcome.

Much also depends on negotiations with the Players' Union and further talks with Soccer Australia.

It is certain a Cuteri takeover would involve a considerable reduction in players' wages and union executive Brendan Schwab acknowledged the need in a new proposal put to Carlton, Soccer Australia and the consortium.

"The proposal sets out the minimum requirements by which we believe, we'll be able to deliver the team in an intact and competitive shape for the rest of the season," Schwab said.

"As fas as cost-cutting measures are concerned, the proposal includes the possibility of new player contracts, the writing off of a substantial superannuation debt and the potential for the players to take a pay-cut of up to 15 per cent.

"The plan also allows for the voluntary reduction of the players list from 23 to 18, should some players wish to pursue opportunities elsewhere," he said.

Schwab's response on behalf of the players, who want to see the club survive, came in the light of the consortium's demands not to take on board any outstanding burdens that might be standing in the way of Carlton becoming successful in the short term and long term as a re-named club.

"We are not prepared to take excess baggage on board. It's got to be done right. If it is done correctly from the beginning the possibility we'll end up in the black (by next season) will be very high. But if we only draw oxygen for the next six months, we'll be in the same boat later on," Dimasi said.

Apart from the sales price and union demands, the consortium also had to deal with Soccer Australia's reform criteria.

Australia's ruling soccer body is set to cut the league from 16 to 12 clubs and the Cuteri consortium wanted a guarantee the club would be included in the reduced league next season.

NSL general manager Steven Kamasz refused to give a guarantee, pointing out it would contaminate the reforms and give the club an unfair advantage over other clubs who also have to submit to the same criteria.

"Soccer Australia won't give us a guarantee, but we've been given an indication and that's important," Dimasi said.

A new name also has emerged. If the deal goes through the Carlton Blues will become the Melbourne Stars and play at Epping Stadium, Dimasi said.

Carlton has played two matches at Epping and drew 3000-plus crowds, underscoring the enthusiasm for NSL soccer among northern fans.

"We've been considering a new name to give the club a general flavour. We've thought of Melbourne Blues, Melbourne City and Melbourne Stars. I believe it will be the Melbourne Stars," Dimasi said.

But, and if the takeover eventuates, the new club may also consider playing at Colonial Stadium, when high profile matches are expected to attract record crowds that cannot be accommodated at Epping, which still is below NSL standard and probably can accommodate crowds of up to 5,000 at most.

"Epping Stadium will be our home ground. Soccer Australia has endorsed that.

We'll play our home games at Epping, but we may have the possibility of playing at Colonial Stadium when we're expecting big crowds for major games, such as against South Melbourne or the Melbourne Knights," Dimasi said.

Simon Colosimo jumps above Robbie Enes of Northern Spirit during the Round 8 match at Epping Stadium. Was this Carlton's final game in the NSL?

Carlton celebrates a rare moment of happiness over the past two weeks.

Carlton at Epping

By Bert van Bedaf

Carlton, if or when it survives, could be back for three more matches at Epping, but the stadium is not to become the club's home venue, unless it is brought up to NSL standards, according to NSL general manager Stefan Kamasz.

Depending on Carlton's fortunes in the next few days, the club could be playing another two matches at Epping and perhaps a third one, making it five games for the season.

Kamasz said Soccer Australia favoured Carlton to play at South Melbourne's Bob Jane Stadium at Albert Park lake.

But Carlton adviser Phil Cleary prefers the Blues to return to Optus Oval, their first home under the AFL's Carlton Football Club four years ago, and play five games at Epping.

"If the club continues on, we'll move back to Optus Oval as our home venue and home base. We'd play five home games at Epping and ten at Optus Oval," Cleary said last week.

Carlton's next home match is scheduled for round ten against Perth Glory. No ground as yet has been nominated. It probably will be up to the new owner(s) to work it out.

Epping Stadium

CUTERI COUNTS HIS CHICKENS CAREFULLY

By Bert van Bedaf

Millionaire businessman Sam Cuteri is ambitious and a doer who loves soccer and success.

"This is something I want to do. I'm not happy at the bottom. I want to go to the top," Cuteri said about his audacious plan to take a substantial stake in the financially stricken Carlton Soccer Club.

An Italian migrant who came to Australia 33 years ago, Cuteri entered the soccer scene as a major sponsor of former Victorian Premier League club Thomastown Devils several years ago.

He became president of the club when they were Thomastown Zebras and turned them into the Melbourne Raiders. Cuteri and his right-hand man Fernando Dimasi wanted to partially privatise the Raiders and take the club into a future second division of the National Soccer League.

But Raiders members rejected Cuteri's plans and the wealthy poultry owner took his money and ideas elsewhere. Together with Dimasi, Cuteri set up a soccer academy at the Whittlesea Stallions, an amalgamation of two Melbourne state league clubs, Thomastown Regent-Bulla and North Reservoir.

The Stallions gained promotion to division one of the State League, while the Melbourne Raiders were relegated to the same league from the Victorian Premier League last season. The two teams will meet for the first time in a local derby next April, when the season starts.

The Stallions are about to begin pre-season under coach Phil Stubbins, who has been re-appointed. Stubbins is also coach of the Academy team of the Carlton Soccer Club.

Cuteri wants the Stallions to win promotion to the Victorian Premier League and establish the club as the major top state soccer club in the area.

He's aiming for the very top. "Sam intends to achieve national league status in the very near future," Dimasi said.

That's why Carlton and Epping Stadium are high on Cuteri's agenda.

Marconi's Derby With Sister Club Adelaide

Eddie Krncevic: Marconi's coach.

By John Economos

MARCONI on Saturday night take on Adelaide City at the Marconi Stadium in what theoretically looks to be an evenly balanced battle, despite Marconi having a much larger squad in its armoury.

The home side in nine outings to date has won only three, the same number as Adelaide City who have played one game less.

Adelaide City's match against Carlton last Friday night was postponed due to the Victorian Club's current financial crisis.

"It's a derby match between two 'sister clubs', "explained Marconi's coach Eddie Krncevic last night.

"Despite the close relationship between these two clubs, obviously we will be out to secure all three League points.

"Games against Adelaide City have never been easy in the past.

"I expect nothing different from them on Saturday night.

"Our midfield is at last starting to shape up," Krncevic evaluated.

The Marconi coach then went on to add: "We are a disciplined team this season and are out to avoid suspensions.

"Christian Care who had wrongfully been sent off against the Auckland Kingz in our last home match, is now back from suspension. He will be in my squad."

The signing of former Adelaide City star midfielder or sweeper, Angelo Costanzo during the off season by Marconi, will be a feature in this game.

"Obviously Angelo will be out to prove and impress against his former club," Krncevic said.

Marconi has one key problem with injuries in its squad.

Giant central marker, Mark Babic, will almost certainly miss this Saturday night's derby.

Last Friday night in Marconi's away game against the Northern Spirit, Babic was forced to leave the pitch very early in the match, limping off with a hamstring injury.

With Babic off so early, Marconi's new signing, Cameroon midfielder Simon Bell, dropped back into a marking role where according to Krncevic he excelled.

It's almost certain that Krncevic on Saturday night against Adelaide City will retain Bell as a marker, in tandem with captain Dominic Longo.

Meanwhile Adelaide City's tough taskmaster, Zoran Matic, when contacted last night by ABSW, stated:"Of course we are expecting a hard game from them.

"Marconi will be out to make it difficult for us.

"But we are coming to Sydney to fight and try to get something out of that game," ended Matic.

Adelaide City's experienced midfielder and captain, Aurelio Vidmar, who has rarely trained of late because of his early season injury, is expected to train all this week.

Mark Babic: Will not play.

Aurelio Vidmar: Adelaide City's captain.

Zoran Matic: Adelaide City's coach.

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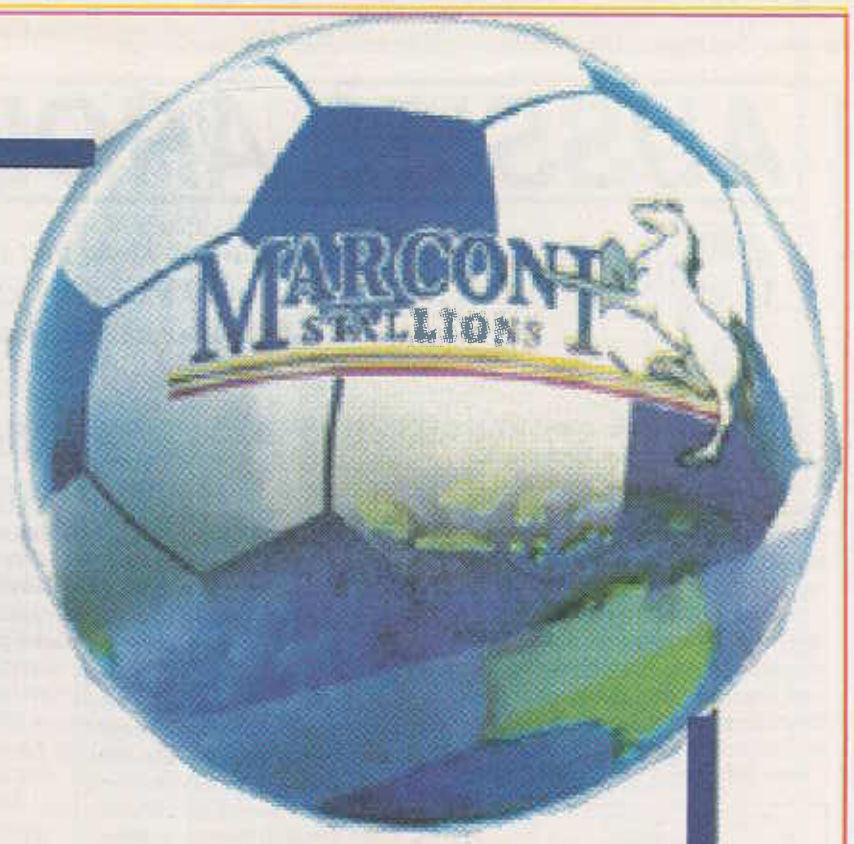

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Letters to the Editor

St George and NSW correct

Dear sir,

In regards to the letter titled "Match Postponed" in the December 5, 2000 issue I would like to say that I agree with the Board and the St George soccer club for wanting to play the postponed match on a week night.

You say common sense should prevail, well the common sense thing to do would be to play the match mid week and keep that 3 week break for what it was designed for. That is to give the players, officials, etc a break for the Christmas period, where many people are away from home and spending time with their families, not to be playing soccer because matches have been postponed or washed out.

Also another reason for this break is to give the players a rest as they have not stopped since October or November last year.

You also ask "why should we lose gate and canteen takings?", "why should we upset our neighbours?" and "why should we damage the performance of out team?".

I ask you this question, whose lights went out? Although it may not have been entirely the Leichhardt clubs fault, nor is it St Georges! But it is the responsibility of the Leichhardt club to provide a ground suitable for night soccer there for they have been the ones inconveniencing people, and St George shouldn't have to explain when they wish to play the match.

B Adams

Bad Coverage

Dear Sir,

Once again we have local Soccer being published every day in the media for all the wrong reasons.

Of course I am referring to the ongoing Carlton saga of whether it will survive or not for the rest of the season.

Soccer Australia's officials have a lot to answer for once again as it has not learned much since the Collingwood debacle a few seasons ago.

Firstly why was Carlton Soccer Club or its new owner allowed to compete in this year's competition if it had no money, but has to rely on the sale of players to run a football club.

Surely they don't fall for those kind of promises anymore do they. Surely after three years Soccer Australia and Peter Jess knew that Carlton's support would never improve as they were already a strong team with little support.

So why would they want to stuff up this years NSL comp if they fold before midway through the season.

How many more years of Mickey Mouse Competitions does the public have to put up with.

Last year we had some teams play each other four times instead of just twice like the rest, now this season we could have teams losing points earned against Carlton if they dropout. It's just plain crazy.

Let's just hope that at the end of this season that every club must have the necessary finances to run their club and football team in the NSL, with a full review every year of the club's finance.

In other words the money has to be in the bank in legal currency, not just on the projected sale of players, merchandise, gate receipts, TV rights or anything else that may or may not happen.

If this area isn't fixed then Soccer will never be a credible sport in this country at the top level.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang QLD

Player availability for World Cup Qualifiers

Dear Sir,

I can't for the life of me understand why we have to play the Kiwis in late June instead of early November to see who qualify to play the fifth placed South American team for a place in the World Cup finals.

Having the Oceania Group qualifier's in April or any other month is fine, as we won't be using the very best overseas players anyway.

If it's beyond Soccer Australia's and the the NZ Federation's control due to FIFA's timing regulations, that's fine but not fair just the same.

It has been identified that one of the reason's why our team fails at the last hurdle in these two sudden death matches every four years is lack of match practice together as a team in pressure cooker game's that World Cup qualifiers give.

A couple of friendly games between June (after the Kiwi games) and November (the last two games) is not going to be of any great help against an Ecuador, Uruguay or Colombia who are just finishing their qualifying rounds in late October.

If the programme stays as it is then we will be receiving just as much on luck as well as skill to get us through.

Like I said in an earlier letter the only disadvantage is getting your European based players together for two extra weeks in November, for virtually the whole month.

If the main player's are not used more than three times during the year 2001 for their country, then the Euro Clubs must allow their players' release for the last four games against NZ and the South American opponent.

Is that too simple, or does FIFA have rules where you can't use your players more than twice in one month, out of the seven times a year, as not to disrupt the European clubs too much.

Whatever it is, it looks like we either are handicapped once again, or we have learned nothing from the past if we have to rely more on luck than skill to get us through.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, QLD.

Return of Maklas

Dear Sir,

As Carlton joins the long list of "dearly" departed soccer clubs it was interesting to see a career appearance of prominent Adelaide businessman Con Maklas.

Only last year Mr Maklas had presided over the demise of NSL club West Adelaide Hellas.

At that time he was scathing about the prospects of Oz soccer with comments like Adelaide is an Aussie Rules mad city and even his family are all AFL fans etc. etc.

That was then now Mr Maklas claims that a non ethnic NSL club will draw regular crowds of 10-12 thousand people.

There his push to enter a new Adelaide based club in the NSL for 2000-1 season.

Its not for me to criticise Mr Maklas' actions after all he didn't become so wealthy by accident.

However it is indeed a strange turn of events on the matter of Channel Seven's coverage of NSL soccer.

Why don't the David Hill fan club (people like Dominic Scullino) appeal to him to help renegotiate the contract he made with Seven.

Because of his often stated passion for soccer I'm sure he would gladly volunteer to offer his services free of charge.

R. Melor,
Bondi. NSW.

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE

With Arvind Hickman *Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players plying their trade in many of the top leagues around the world? Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition Aussie Around The Globe is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performance.*

Aussies Around the Globe' will be taking a four week break over the festive season so I would like the opportunity to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will be back bigger and better, early next year!!!

Over the last week, the rumour mills have been working overtime with John Filan being linked with a move to Premier League team Leaicester City. The out of favour Rovers keeper would deputise behind former teammate Tim Flowers.

Inter Milan seem keen to sign Harry Kewell and are willing to use Robbie Keane as an incentive to have first swipe at the Socceroo, when he is expected to move in a few years time. Leeds have been chasing Keane for some time but are unlikely to part with Kewell in the near future.

Mark Rudan: Overseas trial.

LEADING GOALSCORERS: (LEAGUE AND CUP)

14- Paul Agostino (1860 Munich, Germay).
12- Mark Viduka (Leeds United, England).
7- Danny Invincibile (Swindon Town, England).
6- John Aloisi (Coventry City, England).
5- Jon Brady (Rushden & Diamonds, England), Tim Cahill(Millwall), Tony Popovich (Sanfrecce Hiroshima, Japan).
4- Steve Corica (Sanfrecce Hiroshima, Japan), Richard Garcia (Leyton Orient, England), Ante Milicic (Rijeka, Croatia).
3- Stuart Lovell (Hibernian, Scotland), Kevin Muscat (Wolverhampton Wanderers, England), Josip Skoko (Racing Genk, Belgium).

Clayton Zane has been trialling with English second division side Swindon Town but it is believed he will not be offered a contract. Meanwhile, Mark Robertson, formerly with Swindon is now trialling with Scottish Premier League team Dundee.

Northern Spirit defender Mark Rudan is currently on trial with Belgian first division Club Mechelen, while Pablo Cardozo's contract with Greek team Athinaikos has officially been terminated.

Last Week:

Belgium: Josip Skoko played a full game and scored his third goal of the season in the 38th minute, as Racing Genk beat La Louviere 1-0 at home.

Vilson Knezevic (goalkeeper) played a full game, as Germinal Beerschot drew 1-1 away to Lierse. For Lierse, Joe Spiteri came off the bench in the 59th minute.

While in the Second Division, Lorenz Kindtner played a full game, as Roeselare lost 2-1 at home to RWDM.

Croatia: Ante Milicic came off the bench in the 66th minute, as Rijeka lost 3-0 away to Hajduk Split and Eddy Bosnar played a full game and picked up a caution in the 28th minute, as Dinamo Zagreb drew 1-1 away to Osijek.

Holland: Zeljko Kalac (goalkeeper) played a full game, as Roda JC lost 2-1 at home to PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch First Division and still in Holland, Brett Emerton played a full match, as Feyenoord beat Sparta 2-1 at home. In midweek Kalac remained on the bench, as Roda JC lost 3-2 at home to Vitesse Arnhem.

France: Mile Sterjovski was replaced in the 84th minute, as Lille lost 2-0 away to Rennes while in midweek Sterjovski played a full match, as Lille drew 1-1 at home with Strasbourg.

Germany: Action saw Ned Zelic play a full game, and pick up a caution in the 63rd minute, while Paul Agostino came off the bench in the 61st minute, as 1860 Munich crashed 4-0 at Koln.

Harry Kewell: Chased by Inter.

In the German Cup Agostino and Zelic both played full games, as a 9-man 1860 Munich was crushed 5-0 by Bochum.

Greece: Kyriakos Tohouroglou (goalkeeper) played a full game and kept a clean sheet, as PAOK beat Xanthi 2-0 away from home.

Joe Bacak played his first full game as Ethnikos Asteras crashed 5-0 away to current league leader Olympiakos, to be eliminated from the Greek Cup.

Italy Serie B: Vince Grella replaced in the 84th minute, as Ternana lost 3-1 away to Ancona, while fellow Olympian Marco Bresciano played a full game, as Empoli lost 3-0 at home to Cagliari.

Switzerland: Ivan Ergic was replaced in the 59th minute, as FC Basel lost 2-0 away to FC Zurich.

Chile: Marcelo Pena played a full game, as Everton lost 2-1 away to Colo Colo.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

AUCKLAND KINGZ 2
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2

A goal by Adrian Cervinski late into injury time salvaged a point for the Melbourne Knights as they snatched a 2-2 draw against the Football Kingz in Auckland last Friday night.

With the Kingz still rejoicing after taking a 2-1 lead, their first lead of the game, and with just minutes left on the clock, Cervinski was left one-on-one with Kingz 'keeper Chris March who was unable to stop the striker from slotting home and silencing a vocal 5,559 at Ericsson Stadium.

The Kingz, who for most of the second half looked to have been headed for their second home loss of the season, somehow managed to pull out two goals within two minutes.

Firstly Mark Burton popped up to level the score, and then the aging but skilful Wynton Rufer struck home yet another wonder strike to put the Kingz into a lead which to be fair they did not deserve.

The Knights lead 1-0 up until the 85th minute, a goal by Alex Kiratzoglou in the 34th minute giving the Knights a much-deserved lead as their opponents looked typically out of sorts.

However the introduction of Harry Ngata in the second half, changed the complex of the game, his creativity in the midfield coincided with the team pressing forward with greater purpose and creating more shots on goal.

Adrian Cervinski: Last minute goal to salvage a most needed point in Auckland.

The Kingz were staring down the barrel of yet another loss however with just six minutes remaining, Mark Burton latched onto a cross by Dennis Ibrahim to head past Knights 'keeper Lupce Acevski.

The Kingz, with renewed confidence, pushed forward for an unlikely winner and the goal which the Kingz were craving for to end their recent run of outs arrived almost immediately after Burton's equaliser.

Ivan Vicelich sent a cross into the box which was partially headed away by the Knights defence amid a packed penalty area however the clearance was directed straight to Rufer, who from the edge of the box, fired in a difficult volley that rocketed into the bottom left-hand corner of the net.

It was a sensational goal by the 37-year-old player/coach, and proved just why he was voted Oceania player of the century.

The Kingz players went into a frenzy having seemingly pulled off an incredible victory after trailing for all but the last four minutes.

However joy was turned to sorrow after a major lapse in concentration at the back costing the Kingz the three points.

Shane and Wynton Rufer were visually gutted by the unprofessional lack of concentration and Kingz defenders were arguing amongst themselves as the final whistle blew almost immediately after the heartbreaking goal.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
MARCONI STALLIONS 0

By Julian Murphy

This was a football game that will be remembered for one thing; an abundance of nothing. The Northern Spirit may have retained their unbeaten home record and Marconi may have picked up their third consecutive result but fans of both teams will be forgiven for questioning whether the game they witnessed was a price worth paying.

It was a particularly disappointing contest considering that these two sides have fought out some enthralling battles over the past couple of years.

Marconi's Kris Trajanovski and Northern Spirit's Matthew Bingley both jump high for the ball during their match at North Sydney Oval.

Add to this the favourable weather conditions and no-one would have been expecting such a humdrum affair.

A bonus for the Spirit this season has been their forward line with Alex Moreira and Ben Burgess combining well and looking like a reasonably settled partnership.

Marconi were well aware of this threat and defenders Dominic Longo and Simon Bell succeeded in reducing the duo to bit-part roles. That wasn't to say there was much joy coming at the other end of the field.

Eddie Krncevic again opted for Kris Trajanovski and Royce Brownlie, who scored three goals between them against the Kingz last week, up front but they too couldn't exert much influence on proceedings.

In fact, hardly a player on the field appeared willing to take the game by the scruff of the neck.

The Spirit looked the side most likely in the opening stages as they won a handful of early corners and had Moreira heading a Scott Thomas cross over the bar.

Marconi's Mark Babic left the field with an injury when the game was only minutes old and his replacement Brendan Renaud managed the first shot on target in the 20th minute. Unfortunately for the visitors Renaud's effort presented no problem for Spirit 'keeper Paul Henderson.

Shortly afterwards Brownlie failed to capitalise on a lazy error from Michael Cunico when he blasted a long ranger to the left of Henderson's goal.

The intensity of the game lifted marginally in the second half and Burgess actually nodded the ball into the goal in the 54th minute only for the goal to be disallowed for a Moreira foul on Marconi 'keeper David Aceski.

Those fans snoozing on the Doug Walters Hill may have been awakened when two of the light towers packed it in after 55 minutes but they probably were dozing off again by the time the lights came back to life.

Although the visitors were pushing forward through Angelo Costanzo, Henderson was rarely called into action.

The best chance of the game came eight minutes from the end when Matt Langdon, the Spirit's best in the second half, fired a cross into the goal mouth.

Burgess was in a great position to pinch an undeserved victory for the home side yet summed up the whole evening when his header ballooned over.

Right on full time Troy Cranney displayed some of the commitment the game had been sorely lacking when he stormed at the heart of the Marconi defence before playing the ball to substitute Ryan Griffiths.

After Griffiths saw his shot blocked by Aceski he threw his head back in despair, failing to notice that the Stallions 'keeper had spilled the ball out to his left.

By the time Griffiths had been alerted to this by the frustrated crowd, Aceski had managed to scramble over and secure the danger.

The final whistle was greeted with a chorus of jeers from the crowd as, like the Spirit's first home fixture against Sydney Olympic, the derby game finished scoreless.

The two teams had entered the game with almost identical season records, with only one goal allowing the Spirit to nudge Marconi out of the top six.

Perhaps this led to the two teams canceling each other out in a game where no player appeared willing to take any risks.

A point apiece was the only fair outcome from this game but many of the fans probably wouldn't have minded if both sides received none.

Marconi's Simon Bell (left) is held back by Northern Spirit's Robbie Enes as they battle for the ball.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

EASTERN PRIDE 2
BRISBANE STRIKERS 2

By Jodie Newell

Eastern Pride and Brisbane Strikers played out an entertaining 2-2 draw at Mobil last Saturday night. Pride began the game in a positive manner with young striker Daniel Watkins threatening early.

His efforts were rewarded when Watkins pressured Strikers keeper Daniel Duke, whose clearing kick ricocheted off Watkins and into the net after just seven minutes.

Watkins continued his good play and almost bagged a second in the 31st minute after connecting with a Juan Nilo cross, but 'keeper Duke made up for his earlier blunder to make a great save.

Brisbane continued to keep up the pressure and were rewarded in the 43rd minute when Brazilian import Fernando Rech connected with a Nick Meredith free kick and the Strikers ended the half at 1-1.

The second half began in earnest with both sides attacking. The Pride had seemingly taken the lead just after the break when Clayton Bell was disallowed a goal when the player was deemed offside by referee Perry Mur.

It didn't take long for Brisbane to capitalise on the ruling when five minutes later Fernando Rech scored his second goal of the match in the. The 58th minute strike once again involved Nick Meredith with a beautifully worked set piece.

Meredith drove the ball hard at Pride keeper Eugene Galekovic who was unable to hold the strike and Rech was on the mark to take the crumbs and give Brisbane a 2-1 lead.

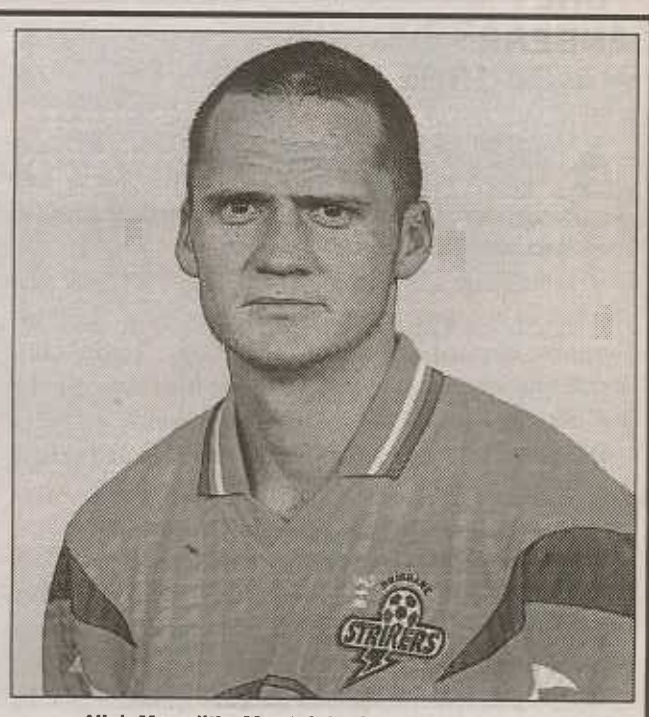
Eastern Pride were not to be outdone, and after some fine running on the left wing, Robbie Puca neatly crossed a ball into the penalty area where John Hutchinson nodded the ball into the net to once again level up the scores.

Both sides pushed for the win however the draw was a fair result.

Eastern Pride coach Hopkins was pleased about his teams performance, but is concerned about the inability to craft out a win.

"I thought we played fairly well. I like the way we started the match, but we should have converted more chances. I was pleased with the way the lads fought back and at least we came away with something, although we desperately need a three point game".

On the other hand Brisbane Strikers coach John Kosmina was satisfied with his teams efforts, "Its always tough coming here and if you leave with something its a bonus. We gave away a silly goal at the start, but we settled, regained our composure and played well".



Nick Meredith: Man of the Match performance.

PERTH GLORY 4
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

By Richard Kreider

Newcastle United's remarkable 100% success rate at Perth Oval came to a shuddering halt last Sunday night following Perth Glory's comfortable 4-0 win; one that elevated the defending Premiers to second place on the NSL ladder.

Apart from the score-line, the other pleasing aspect to come out of the game was the attendance of 11,873, since it was originally feared the crowd average might plummet after moving the game from the Saturday, in order to avoid the popular Christmas Pageant.

Prior to last weekends clash, the Newcastle side had won the four previous encounters, but there never seemed any likelihood of the injury-hit New South Wales strugglers being able to preserve and expand such an impressive record against a Perth side currently oozing confidence.

Although Sundays goals were all converted in the opening period, Glory coach Bernd Stange refused to be critical of the side for not being able to add to their tally after the break.

"Even when you are winning a game 4-0, everybody knows you canít play at such a high intensity for ninety minutes," said Stange.

"OK, it was like a team that was working a nine to five job but knocked off at lunch-time, but letís forget it and move on." Stange insisted.

Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey was equally full of praise for his opponents, but said things might have been different had his side received a bit of luck during the opening exchanges.

Bobby Despotovski: Two goals against Newcastle.

"I wasn't too disappointed with the first twenty minutes, in fact I actually thought we were a bit unlucky not to get the first breakthrough, as well as a penalty," said Sterrey.

"You've got to understand, our confidence isnít good at the moment, so when the first goal went in, the heads went down, we switched off and stopped working.

"But all credit to Perth Glory they are very mobile, very positive and that comes from their recent results which is the difference between the two sides. Put it this way, Glory is a Rolls Royce compared to our 'VW' at the moment," joked Sterrey.

Glory started the game unchanged from the previous week, while United had to overcome a mid-week hamstring injury to Travis Dodd.

Newcastle's dynamic striker John Buonavoglia was again a menace with his on and off-the-ball running and can feel unlucky not to have had a few free-kicks go his way, especially a ninth minute penalty claim when ex-Newcastle defender Shane Pryce obstructed the diminutive forward after becoming the victim of a 'nutmeg'.

Four minutes later, Dan McBreen broke free to go one on one with Perth goalkeeper Jason Petkovic, but the striker was denied a goal by the 'keepers legs.

The opening goal however, came in the 19th minute from Gloryís quiet yet brilliant Brazilian midfielder Edgar Junior, when after collecting a clever defence-piercing pass and side-stepping an opponent with ease on the front of the box, he finished the move by coolly slotting the ball past Bob Catlin, who was going for a record 100th clean sheet in the NSL. It was Edgar's first goal in the competition.

Jamie Harnwell, who had a rock-solid game for the Glory in defence made it 2-0 with a close-range bullet-like header from a John Carbone cross.

Bobby Despotovski got himself on the scoresheet as well as getting a yellow card for celebrating outside of the pitch perimeter after 40 minutes when Gary Faria slipped a quality through-ball into the run of the Perth forward from the face of the box.

Despotovski netted a second just moments later with a superb 25 metre strike from the edge of the area that looped over the stranded Catlin and into the far side of the goal.

The second-half saw Sterrey swap McBreen for Anthony Surjan in an effort to add bite in the United midfield alongside Peter Tsekenis.

With a little over half an hour of the game remaining, Glory's Peter Buljan substituted Despotovski because of a worsening viral infection, but the former Canberra Cosmos striker was yet again ineffectual around an opponents goal.

Glory now have to wait anxiously to see if they have a game next weekend against Carlton, or whether the team is given a weekend off.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 2

By Tony Tannous

On a night when Alex Tobin equalled the all-time NSL playing record of 445 games, it was an NSL rookie, Scottish import Joe Miller, who marked his own personal milestone with a second classy double in as many weeks on Sunday at Belmore.

Miller, who turned 33 two days before the game, moved his season tally to five with two strikes straight out of the top drawer that propelled Parramatta Power to an emphatic 2-0 win over table-topping Sydney Olympic.

After his first half heroics against Sydney United in round eight, the former Celtic man scored in the 35th and 81st minutes to impose Olympicís first home defeat of the campaign and send the Powerís unbeaten run to three games.

Indeed, they were the first goals Olympic had conceded at Belmore this season.

The first was a spectacular drive from outside the box which whistled past Olympic keeper Clint Bolton into the top right hand corner, while the second was a piece of individual brilliance as Miller picked up the ball 30 metres out, ran past a static Olympic defence and slotted the ball past a helpless Bolton.

The win, the Powerís first over Olympic, sends David Mitchell's side to the fringe of the top six and adds fuel to the pre-season thought that Parramatta will be a serious finals contender.

After a very inconsistent opening six rounds, where they suffered two wins and four losses, the Power have know taken a point away from South Melbourne and three each against Sydney rivals United and Olympic.

The main reason for the Powerís improved showing has been the move by Mitchell away from a flat back four to a sweeper and two stoppers.

For the injury depleted Olympic, a second loss in as many weeks confirms some of the pre-season question marks about a lack of depth and a lack of finishing firepower.

While coach Branko Culina praised youngsters Nick Carle and Greg Owens on their efforts so far this season, he was quick to point out after the game that his strikers hadn't scored in open play for five games. Clearly he was hoping to persuade his club to resign Pablo Cardozo.

And on the evidence here he may have a point, with Power keeper Andrew Crews rarely tested.

It was clear from the moment the team sheet arrived that Mitchell was going to make life as difficult as possible for Olympic, with hard working midfielder Steve Berry thrust into the unfamiliar role of striker alongside Miller.

Hamilton Thorpe, who had partnered Miller and scored against Sydney United, was left out of the squad after failing to get over a niggling ankle injury.

On the bench was a rejuvenated Joel Griffiths, back from exile after being left out of the first team squad for the past two games.

Clearly the Power had come to defend, getting men behind the ball and attempting to play on the counter-attack.

But for the first 30 minutes neither side mustered anything noteworthy of an attack, with both defences dominating.

Tobin, playing in the uncustomary role of sweeper, was clearly enjoying his night, and along with stoppers Nick Orlic and Joe Vrkic, barely gave Mass Sarr and Carle a sniff.

And with Milan Blagojevic beginning to exert some influence in midfield, the Power started to get a grip of the game, with Miller's opener coming after he ran onto a lovely Blagojevic pass.

At half-time Culina tried to address his sides' lack of penetration out wide by bringing on recent Liberian signing Andy Amegashie on the right for Lindsay Wilson. For a while Olympic got on top as the Power camped themselves on the edge of their 18 yard box.

But as the game went on and Olympic grew more frustrated by an inability to break down a tight defence, the Power began to threaten on the counter-attack, with Miller and Griffiths, on at half time for Berry, looking dangerous every time the ball went forward.

Sydney Olympic's Lindsay Wilson holds Parramatta Power's Nick Orlic.

Indeed, Griffiths had a chance to seal the game when, midway through the second half, he was twice denied by the agility of Bolton.

In the end it was left to Miller to seal the night and steal the headlines.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

SYDNEY UNITED 2
CANBERRA COSMOS 2

By Ante Grabovac

Sydney United and the Canberra Cosmos played out a thrilling 2-2 at Edensor Park last Sunday afternoon, stretching United's undefeated run at home this season.

Whilst the match had chances squandered at both ends, injury time was action packed with two goals leaving the Bravehearts heartbroken and the Cosmos delighted with the away point.

Sydney United took the lead for the first time in the match in the 93rd minute via import Commins Menapi after a defence slicing run by Zlatko Arambasic.

Arambasic left three defenders in the lurch as he ran to the by line and cut the ball back in field where Menapi was waiting in the six yard box to convert his second goal in two matches.

Canberra stole Unitedís lead and the destiny of the result with a 30 metre right foot thunderbolt by Toplica Popovich that curled into the top left hand corner of the post.

United 'keeper Brett Hughes had no chance of stopping the projectory of the ball.

The United players looked on in disbelief as the Canberra bench celebrated, snatching a draw right at the death.

United were on the back foot after five minutes when from a corner Alex Castro leapt above some poor defence marking and headed past Hughes.

Toplica Popovich: Thunderbolt in the last minute of injury time, earning the Cosmos a valuable point.

United had two excellent chances in the first 45 minutes. The first was a skewed shot by Shane Webb with an open goal after the 'keeper was left on the edge of the box after a previous save. Webb's shot went across the face of goal. The second, a sizzling run by Tom Pondeljak through the centre of the Cosmos defence lead to a huge opening. A galloping Richard Plesa from defence, ran in support of Pondeljak however Plesa's shot with only the keeper to beat was stopped one handed by a leaping Angelo Konstantinou.

The second half began with a looping Danny Burt header hitting the crossbar. While at the other end Jon Angelucci was not able to pass the last man in defence as Hughes dived to swarm the shot.

United looked more dangerous when Menapi came on replacing Francis Awaritefe in the 58th minute.

Zlatko Arambasic playing in his first match since tearing his hamstring in Round four, also set up the first goal running at the Canberra defence on the left side of goal. His low cross passed the diving keeper and with three United players lining up to score, it was Ante Deur who tapped the ball in scoring his second goal in three appearances.

Canberra were reduced to ten men in the 76th minute when goal scorer Castro was sent off. Canberra were awarded a free kick just outside the United penalty box and Castro turned around and said something to the referee who took offence and gave the player his marching orders.

The team numbers were even when Tom Pondeljak was red carded for his second bookable offence in the 84th minute as he pulled a shirt of a Canberra player.

Sydney United will have both Pondeljak and Awaritefe out suspended for next weekendís clash against Wollongong.

Awaritefe was handed his fourth yellow of the season.

United with the draw have moved down to 10th position however the team is only one point behind fifth place while the Cosmos sit just one spot behind United, with 12 points from their 9 games.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 4
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2

By Bert van Bedaf

The souffle rose in two blistering moments, catapulting South Melbourne to the top of the NSL ladder after its 4-2 victory over title holder Wollongong Wolves at a stifling Bob Jane Stadium last Sunday.

Thrown into the hot equation was Kevin Stott. The USA referee, in Australia on an exchange program, ruled an apparent offside on-side, which gave the Wolves the lead. He awarded a penalty when apparently the foul had not been perpetrated, which resulted in South's equaliser.

He did not give a yellow card when it was due, enabling George Souris to stay on the pitch.

He only cautioned Michael Petkovic for a professional foul, when the South 'keeper should have been sent off. It was quite a performance.

The match jumped into life with a two-minute burst that produced two goals and left the teams level inside 30 minutes and at the interval. It had its climax with three goals in stoppage time to settle the contest.

Wide on the right in the 25th minute, Matthew Horsley kept running while assistant referee Jeremy Blaney had raised his flag. Stott indicated it was his call. He did not blow his whistle.

Blaney put his flag down and Horsley crossed to an unmarked Scott Chipperfield, who was untroubled in putting the ball in the net.

South defender Mehmet Durakovic and midfielder Steve Panopoulos remonstrated with Blaney, in other circumstances an NSL referee.

He was listed on the team sheet as the fourth official, but standing in for an absent linesman. The goal stood much to the chagrin of the South fans and players.

But the Lakesiders equalised a minute later from the spot. Paul Trimboli released a delicate through-ball to Vaughan Coveny, was stranded on Wolves 'keeper Grant Barlow.

Stott spotted a foul as Coveny went down and Trimboli converted the penalty with a fluent shot near the left post.

Wollongong again should have gone ahead two minutes after the break, but an unmarked Robert Stanton pushed his half-volley over the bar after Chipperfield has crossed the ball to the edge of the area and Paul Reid provided the flick-on.

Wolves were lucky not to have a player sent off in the 65th minute. Boutsianis, on the left, accepted a pass while Souris ran into him feet first. Already on yellow for an offence in the 40th minute, Souris should have been given his second yellow. But Stott only awarded a free-kick.

Wollongong beat the offside trap for a second time two minutes later and were on the wrong end of a Stott decision. Chipperfield went through, but Petkovic brought the Wolves forward down outside the area. It was a professional foul. Chipperfield had worked the ball past Petkovic and was headed for goal.

But Stott let Petkovic off with a yellow card, when he should have given the South 'keeper his marching orders.

South hit the front in the 78th minute with a poached goal from Andy Vlahos. Goran Lozanovski, (on for Coveny in the 57th minute) provided the cross. Boutsianis cut the ball back, Trimboli missed a possible header and Vlahos ran on to the loose ball and put it in the net.

The Wolves almost equalised in the 84th minute from an excellent cross by Chipperfield. It eluded a flat-footed South defence and Saso Petrovski (on for Robert Stanton in the 75th minute) blasted it on to the near post. Lozanovski appeared to seal South's victory two minutes into time-added on with an amazing shot, which may have been meant as a cross.

South Melbourne's Steve Panopoulos (right) is tackled by Wollongong's Matthew Horsley.

He hit it from the sideline on the right and it sailed at an acute angle into the net at the far post.

But a resilient Wollongong hit back straight away from the kick-off. Paul Reid accepted the ball and from 30 metres blasted it home past a startled Petkovic.

South finally sealed victory in the fifth minute of stoppage time when Boutsianis found himself alone at the near post. He thumped the ball into the net to put South top of the ladder and the main challenger for Wollongong's crown.

ABSW Player of the Year Points

ROUND NINE

EASTERN PRIDE V BRISBANE
3 - Meredith (BS)
2 - Stergiopoulos (EP)
1 - Rech (BS)

SYD OLYMPIC V PARRAMATTA
3 - Blagojevic (PP)
2 - Miller (PP)
1 - Tobin (PP)

SPIRIT V MARCONI
3 - Costanzo (MS)
2 - Langdon (NS)
1 - Longo (MS)

FOOTBALL KINGZ V MELB KNIGHTS
3 - Burton (FK)
2 - Ngata (FK)
1 - Kiralzoglou (MK)

PERTH V NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
3 - Harnwell (PG)
2 - Faria (PG)
1 - Milicevic (PG)

SOUTH MELB V WOLLONGONG WOLVES
3 - Susa (SM)
2 - Reid (WW)
1 - Vlahos (SM)

SYDNEY UNITED V CANBERRA
3 - Arambasic (SU)
2 - Castro (CC)
1 - Pondeljak (SU)

ADELAIDE CITY V CARLTON
Match not played

As of this week, the Progressive player points for the 2000/2001 ABSW Player of the Year award will be hidden with the winner to be released at season's end.

SOCCER WOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

SAPPHIRES INTO GRAND FINAL WITH EASY WIN OVER PRIDE

NSW SAPPHIRES 5
(Justine McLaughlin 26, Thea Slatyer 43, Kelly Golebiowski 59, 75, Lisa Gilbert 87)

NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 1
(Rose Dunne 89m)

at St George Stadium, Sydney

NSW Sapphires easily defeated rivals Northern NSW Pride in last Saturday evening's WNSL semi-final (2nd v 3rd playoff) to book their berth into this Saturday's grandfinal against frontrunners Queensland Sting.

Defending champions and favourites NSW Sapphires were far too strong for Northern Pride in the 5-1 defeat, displaying impressive passing combinations and movement off the ball in the sudden-death clash.

The Sapphires were depleted in numbers with four away with the Australian Schoolgirls Team, but still retained very close to their starting eleven.

On the other hand, Pride suffered the absence of key players playmaker Amber Neilson (suspended) and Matildas defender Cheryl Salisbury (injured), and the young side had little to combat the confident Sapphires.

Northern NSW did however make a lively, spirited start, creating the occasional opportunity but lacking any firepower in front of goal. It wasn't long before the experience of the Sapphires told and the pressure on the opposition goal increased, Anissa Tann-Darby, Taryn Rockall, and Kelly Golebiowski all unlucky not to open Sapphires' account.

Kelly Golebiowski: Scorer of two.

It eventually came in the 26th minute with midfielder Thea Slatyer's strike from wide on the left, and the on-target ball was palmed up by the goalkeeper. Lurking near goal, Justine McLaughlin nailed the loose ball into goal from the acutest of angles on the right.

Rachael Alley had Northern's closest chance when the NSW defence gave the ball straight to her, but her shot from 16 metres was fingertipped over the crossbar in the 38th minute by the keeper.

The home side then doubled their lead two minutes before the break, Slatyer with a magnificent shot from wide near the left touchline, the ball dipping just under the crossbar.

The Sapphires continued the scoring theme in the second half against a tiring Pride. Golebiowski struck next in the 59th minute, slotting home the crumbs after 13-year-old substitute keeper Alison Logue spilt a high cross under pressure. Golebiowski then scored her second in the 75th, this time a neat first-time side-footed shot from 12 metres to finish a Lisa Gilbert lobbed pass.

Substitute Gilbert scored NSW's fifth with a fantastic drive on the turn from 16 metres to celebrate her 22nd birthday.

Northern were allowed a brief celebration a minute from time when Rose Dunne scored their consolation goal, a sensational effort from the right side of the 18-yard box into the top left corner of the net.

Gilbert almost added another for the home side with a great thumping drive which cannoned off the frame of the goal.

Whilst the Sapphires go on to focus on another grandfinal and a shot at the title, Northern can at least draw some solace from this still being their best ever league placing at third.

Sapphires: Kell (King 84), Tann-Darby, Warrener, Kristine Collins, Slatyer (Davison 84), L Collins, Rockall, Klessattel, Carney, Golebiowski, McLaughlin (Gilbert 72).

Pride: Praszczalek (Logue 46), Ingles, Wilson, Attwill, Stevens, Alley (Aimie Neilson 78), Crawford, King (Colthorpe 72), McMinn, Dunne, Gill.

GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

QUEENSLAND HOPING TO STING NSW

This Saturday's WNSL grandfinal brings together clearly the best two sides in this year's league. Queensland Sting would have to remain favourites, with the runs on the board and enjoying home advantage.

NSW Sapphires have the ability to play fine football, but have been known to be patchy in their consistency and will need to be mentally on song.

Sting boast clearly the most experienced lineup of any team this season, in not only their three Olympians Bryony Duus, Alicia Ferguson and Kate McShea, but their four ex-internationals Traci Bartlett, Kim Revell, Claire Nichols, and Lisa Dunne.

Additionally the remainder of their side consists of several very experienced national league players together with some very talented youngsters.

The Sapphires have overall a less experienced squad compared to previous years, but they seem to be hitting their straps at the right end of the season. Olympians Anissa Tann-Darby and Kelly Golebiowski are joined by in-form playmaker Taryn Rockall, and their most recent matches have shown an improved all-round performance, team effort, and focus with all players playing an important role.

Taryn Rockall: In-form playmakers.

Queensland will be gunning for their second championship, having won the inaugural league in season 1996/97. NSW are the only team to have won the league twice in its four year history, having claimed top honours in 1997/98 and 1999/2000. Notably both teams have gone on to finish the job and win the title once making the grandfinal.

Bryony Duss: Olympian and Qld Sting star.

Queensland Sting have swept all before them this season, and easily topped the points ladder with a perfect five wins from five, a clear five points ahead of their opponent the Sapphires. They hold the best defensive record over the five rounds having conceded just the one goal (being to NSW), as well as the best goal difference with plus eleven.

NSW Sapphires lay claim to the one remaining stat, with 15 goals from the five rounds ahead of the Sting's twelve. They also have the league's top scorer in midfielder Rockall who broke a total of six times.

Queensland have the psychological advantage, comfortably winning 3-1 when the two last met in Round Four.

But on the day in the pressure and atmosphere of a grandfinal, the form guide and statistics can all but be thrown in out the window. Hopefully the two can produce a skilful, competitive, entertaining worthy of the occasion.

And this occasion certainly promises to the grandest ever, Queensland successfully negotiating to hold the grandfinal alongside after the Brisbane Strikers host the Football Kingz in the round 10 NSL fixture at the magnificent Suncorp Stadium.

The WNSL title decider will feature as the third match in a top class tripleheader of football.

Top class facilities, with all the trimmings and staffing of an NSL fixture, together with a bumper crowd will really add the desired touch.

Alicia Ferguson: 2000 Olympian.

THE STATS:

NSW SAPPHIRES

Grandfinal Appearances: 1997/98, 1999/2000
Champions: 1997/98, 1999/2000
Season Stats (5 rounds): 3 wins, 15 goals, 7 against, 10 points
Season Scorers (6 games): Taryn Rockall 6 (top scorer), Kelly Golebiowski 4, Justine McLaughlin 3, Heather Garriock 1, Kristine Collins 1, Lisa Warrener 1, Michelle Carney 1, Catherine Cannuli 1, Thea Slatyer 1, Lisa Gilbert 1

QUEENSLAND STING

Grandfinal Appearances: 1996/97
Champions: 1996/97
Season Stats (5 rounds): 5 wins, 12 goals, 1 against, 15 points
Season Scorers (5 games): April Mann 4, Jamara Maza 3, Kim Revell 3, Lisa Dunne 1, Alicia Ferguson 1

Last Meeting: Qld Sting 3 def NSW Sapphires 1 (Round 4)
Head To Head: Total 11, Qld wins 4, NSW wins 4, Draws 3

GRAND FINAL

Sat 16 December
Queensland Sting v NSW Sapphires
8.00pm kick-off
Suncorp Stadium
Castlemaine St, Milton, Brisbane

The WNSL grand final is the feature match in an exciting tripleheader:
National Youth League (boys):
QAS v NSWIS : 4pm
National Soccer League (men's):
Brisbane Strikers v Auckland Kingz : 6pm
WNSL : Queensland Sting v NSW Sapphires: 8pm

NSW Premier League

NSW Premier League

ROUND 6

BELCONNEN OUTCALLED BY SLICK BONNYRIGG

Bonnyrigg	4
Belconnen	2

By Graham Cooke

Bonnyrigg White Eagles emerged as the principal challenger to Blacktown City in the NSW Premier League with a solid 4-2 win over Belconnen Blue Devils, in Canberra last Saturday.

After making a flying start to the season, Belconnen have faded with two consecutive losses and are slipping into the middle of the table.

However, coach Lino Fiorese still believes his team are good enough to claim a place in the top four.

"There's an awful lot hanging on how well we do at Canterbury next week," he said.

For long spells on Saturday Bonnyrigg looked a class better that their opponents and at one stage led 3-0. Experienced goalkeeper-captain Anthony Giannasca kept the home side in the game with a string of fine saves, while his opposite number, Fernando Greco, had little to do until the second half.

Colin Luff

Bonnyrigg took the lead after nine minutes, David Reid finding room to turn and stroke the ball into the net from a Devrim Huseyin corner.

They went two up just before half time, a cheeky back-heel by Colin Luff setting up Robert Gomez who scored from close range.

Greco was called into serious action for almost the first time after the interval, when he could only parry a powerful drive from half-time substitute Josh Whittington. The ball fell to a defender who cleared.

Then Javier Mancino contested a cross with Giannasca and the ball fell for Luff to make it 3-0.

Belconnen hit back and once again it was the league's leading scorer, Steve Lazzari, who did the damage. He sparked the revival by touching home a pass from Leo Langone, then a minute into stoppage time converted a penalty after Tayfun Devrimol was judged to have handled the ball.

Even then the last act was Bonnyrigg's, Stewart Van Bentum scoring with a scorching drive two minutes later.

Fiorese said the team had a lot of things to work on "especially the first three goals, which we should not have conceded," he said.

"But we worked hard to get back into the game...there is no doubt there are players who have not yet made that step up where they can play at this level week in and week out, but I think we're getting there."

Tigers Slay Saints

Leichhardt Tigers	4
St George Saints	0

By Joe Russo

Leichhardt Tigers defeated St George Saints by 4-0 at Lambert Park last Tuesday evening in a game that was replayed because the original match suffered flood lighting failure.

All the action took place in the second half after the first half ended scoreless.

In the 63rd minute Michael Galluzzo opened the scoring for the Tigers after some excellent lead up work from Jason Lal.

The Tigers extended their lead in the 66th minute when Steve Karavatakis scored the first of his two goals.

Following a cross fired in from the left, Karavvatkis smashed into the right hand corner of the target with a magnificent left-footed side-volley.

Michael Galluzzo: One of Leichhardt Tigers' stars.

The Tigers' captain Karavatakis, scored his second in the 75th minute from close range.

The fourth and final goal for Tigers was in the 79th minute, when a lovely glancing header from Mark Borg put the game well out of reach for the Saints.

DEMONS AND SAINTS LOCKED UP

Blacktown City	2
St George Saints	2

By Don O'Regan

Blacktown City Demons extended their unbeaten run to 25 games when they drew 2-2 with the St George Saints at the Gabbie Stadium last Saturday evening.

The aggressive and bustling St George outfit took the lead in the 15th minute after Bill Petrovski slipped the ball to George Maglis who gave the City keeper, John Crawley, no chance with his blistering drive.

Replacements, Jason Connolly measured a pass down the left wing which was gathered by Paul Dee who raced to the touchline before crossing Iocca in the six-yard box. to slid the ball home in the 70th minute.

Six minutes later Iocca scored the sides second, slotted home unmarked.

St George pressed for an equaliser and were duely rewarded in the third minute of injury time thanks to Nick Polimenakos.

• RESULTS •

Belconnen 2 (Lazzari 67m & 91m pen) **Bonnyrigg 4** (Reid 9m, Gomez 43m, Luff 55m, Van Bentum 93m)

Blacktown 2 (Iocca 71m & 77m) **St George 2** (Maglis 16m, Petratos 90m)

Leichhardt 0 Penrith 0

Sutherland 0 Central Coast 3 (Williams 3m, Cutler 60m, Byrn 80m)

Parramatta Eagles 3 (Joseski 7m, Cummins 49m, Anderson 88m) **Canterbury Marrickville 0**

• TOP SCORERS •

AFTER ROUND 6

Player	Club	Goals
Steve Lazzari	Belconnen	9
Darren Iocca	Blacktown City	8
Robbie Gomez	Bonnyrigg	3
Colin Luff	Bonnyrigg	3
David Reid	Bonnyrigg	3
Steve Karavatakis	Leichhardt	3
Angelo Petratos	St George	3

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 6)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City	6	5	1	0	13	4	16
Bonnyrigg	4	3	0	1	13	6	9
Belconnen	6	3	0	3	13	10	9
Central Coast	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Leichhardt	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Parramatta	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
St George	5	2	1	2	7	11	7
Canterbury M'ville	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
Penrith	6	0	2	4	5	14	2
Sutherland	6	0	2	4	5	14	2

For further information see: www.nswpremierleague.com

NSW Premier League

www.nswpremierleague.com

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER
Central Coast v Blacktown — WOY WOY OVAL
Under 19s: 6.00pm — First Grade: 8.00pm

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER
C'bury M'ville v Belconnen — HENSON PARK
Under 19s: 4.30pm — First Grade: 6.30pm

Bonnyrigg v Sutherland — SERBIAN CENTRE
Leichhardt v P'matta Eagles — LAMBERT PARK
Penrith v St George — ANDREWS ROAD FIELD
Under 19s: 5.00pm — First Grade 7.00pm

Rescheduled Fixtures

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER
Bonnyrigg v P'matta Eagles — SERBIAN CENTRE
Under 19s: 6.00pm — First Grade: 8.00pm

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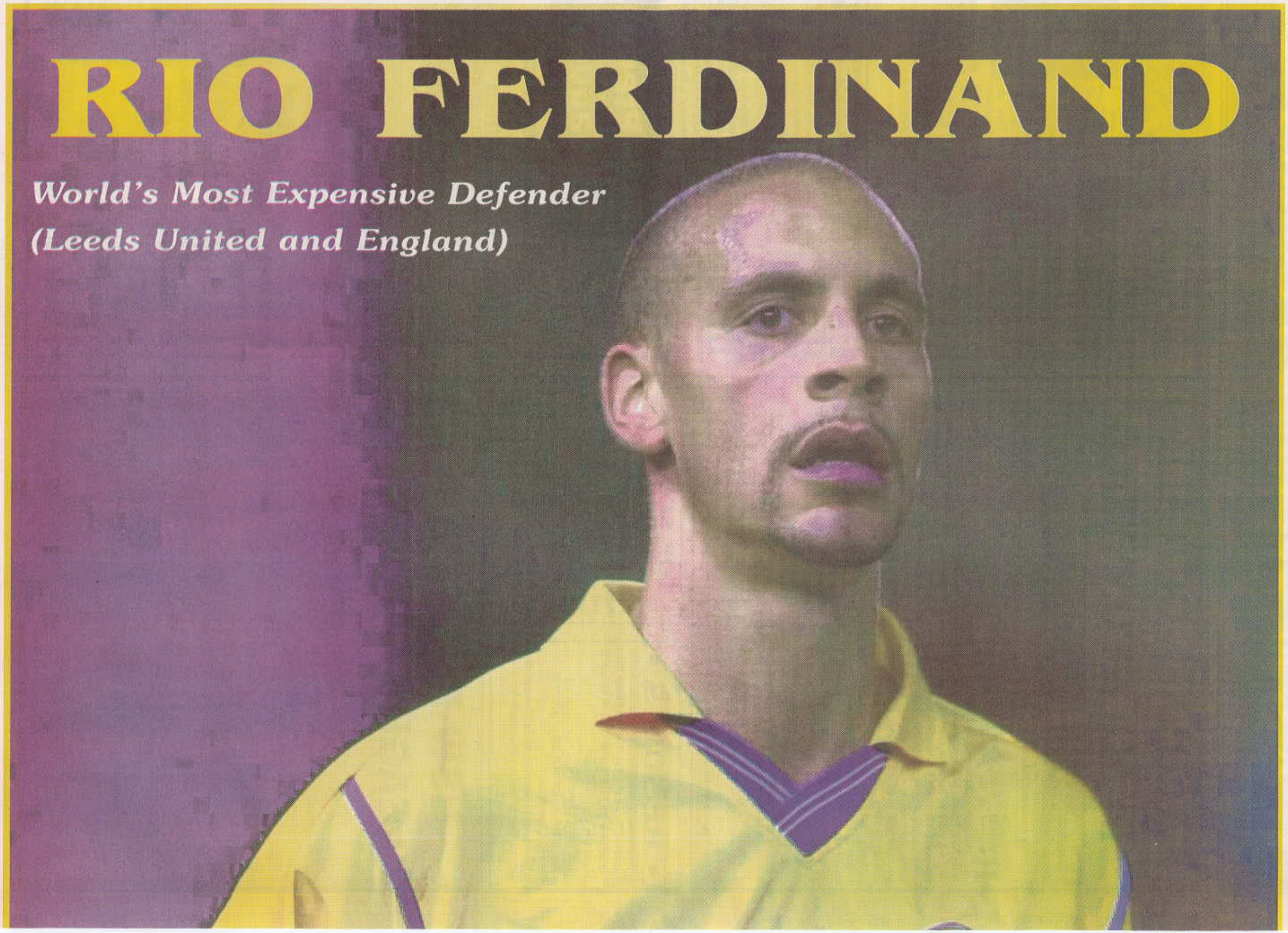
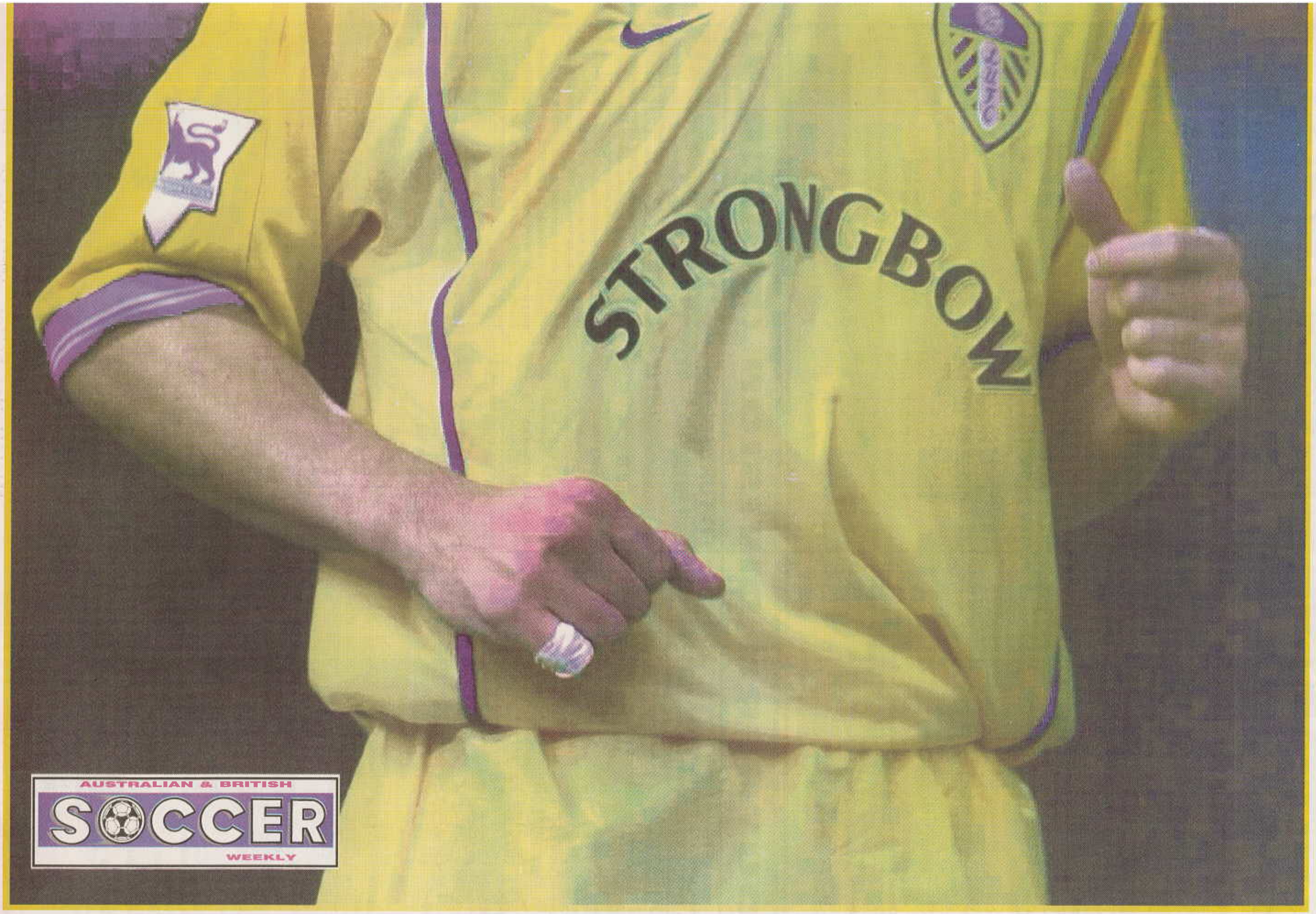




AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

National Youth League 2000/2001

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 9)

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2000

NSWIS .....2 — **Sydney Olympic Acad** .1
(Tadrosse 6', Munoz 68') — *(Hunt 73')*

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2000

Sydney United .....2 — **Canberra Cosmos** 2
(Agyei 68', Sbrinovski 70') — *(Ivanic 80', Aleksic 87i)*

Northern Spirit .....1 — **Marconi Stallions Y** ...2
(R. Griffiths 26') — *(Josaisa 58', Gulessarian 70')*

Marconi Stallions Colts .....3 — **Wollongong Wolves** ...1
(Brosque 2i, Care 22', Zoric 78') — *(Austin 87')*

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2000

Sydney Olympic Youth .....3 — **Parramatta Power** 7
(McAllister 32, 83, Parisi 70,) — *(Santalab 7, 43, 56, 72, Roodenburg 24, Kukucka 85, 88)*

ACT Academy .....0 — **Newcastle United** 2
(Pryce 53', K. O'Brien 89i)

Bye — AIS

BROUGHT FORWARD FROM ROUND 12 — PLAYED ON SAT 9/12

QAS .....1 — **AIS** 5
(J. Johnson 44) — *(McKay 2, 17, Deegan 75, M. Johnson 78, 86)*

RESCHEDULED MATCH — TO BE PLAYED ON 29/01/01

Newcastle United Colts v QAS

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
A.I.S.	10	9	0	1	1	27	8	27
Marconi Stallions	8	6	1	0	1	13	3	19
Northern Spirit	8	6	0	1	2	20	7	18
Sydney United	8	5	1	1	2	17	11	17
Parramatta Power	8	5	1	0	2	21	13	16
Marconi Stallions Colts	8	4	0	1	4	20	11	12
Wollongong Wolves	7	3	2	1	2	14	10	11
N.S.W.I.S.	8	3	2	1	3	7	9	11
Newcastle United	8	3	1	0	4	10	8	10
Q.A.S.	11	3	1	0	7	18	31	10
Canberra Cosmos	8	2	3	1	3	15	15	9
Sydney Olympic	7	2	1	1	4	14	18	7
Sydney Olympic Academy	9	1	1	0	7	10	19	4
Newcastle United Colts	5	1	0	1	4	1	12	3
ACT Academy	9	1	0	0	8	3	34	3

ROUND 10

w/e 17th December 2000 K/O

Wed Parramatta Power Vs Newcastle United Colts 7:30pm
Valentine Sports Park

Fri Newcastle United Vs Marconi Stallions Colts 5:00pm
Marathon Stadium

Sat QAS Vs NSWIS 4:00pm
Suncorp Metway Stadium

Sat Canberra Cosmos Vs Sydney Olympic Youth 4:30pm
Bruce Stadium

Sat Wollongong Wolves Vs Sydney United 4:00pm
WIN Stadium

Sun Sydney Olympic Academy Vs Northern Spirit 4:00pm
Wentworth Park

Sun Marconi Stallions Youth Vs AIS 5:00pm
Marconi Stadium

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 7)

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2000

Albury Wodonga .....0 — **South Melbourne** 8
(Steve Mancevski 4, Marco Santilli 2, Richie Alagich, Okan Simsek)

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2000

Melbourne Knights Academy ...3 — **Bulleen Zebras** 0
(Jim Alamaris 2, Sam Kalakias)

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2000

South Melbourne Eagles Acad ..1 — **South Dandenong** 2
(Arif El Dib) — *(Viktor Memeti, Mentor Memeti)*

Eastern Pride .....9 — **Preston Lions** 0
(Naum Sekulovski 4, Denis Mustac 2, Milos Petrevski 2, Bojan Jevjedovic)

VIS .....1 — **Melbourne Knights** ...3
(Ricky Chillico) — *(Jasmin Sehic, Anthony Pelikan, Robert Carmignani)*

Green Gully .....2 — **Fawkner Blues** 2
(Victor Donev 2) — *(Brett Cunningham 2)*

Albury Wodonga v Carlton
(TBA)

Bye v Carlton Peninsula Blues
Bye v South Melbourne

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern Pride	**7**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**29**	**6**	**18**
Melbourne Knights	7	5	0	2	20	11	15
VIS	7	5	0	2	16	10	15
South Melbourne Institute	6	4	0	2	25	14	12
Melbourne Knights Academy	7	4	0	3	11	12	12
South Dandenong	6	3	2	1	11	7	11
Carlton Peninsula Blues	5	3	0	2	18	6	9
Carlton	5	3	0	2	16	5	9
South Melbourne Eagles	6	3	0	3	11	12	9
Bulleen Zebras	7	2	0	5	9	19	6
Green Gully Cavaliers	7	1	2	4	6	14	5
Fawkner Blues	6	1	1	4	8	22	4
Albury Wodonga	7	1	1	5	5	22	4
Preston Lions	5	0	0	5	1	26	0

FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2000

Bulleen Zebras v VIS (Veneto Club, 6.30 pm)

Round 8

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2000

Carlton Peninsula Blues v Melbourne Knights Academy,
(Lawton Reserve, 6.30pm)

Melbourne Knights v Green Gully
(Knights Stadium, 7.30 pm)

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 2000

PRESTON LIONS V VIS
(Connor Reserve, 4 pm)

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2000

Bulleen Zebras v Easter Pride,
(Veneto Club, 4pm)

Carlton v South Melbourne Eagles Academy
(TBA)

Fawkner Blues v Albury Wodonga
(Reggio Calabria Club, 4pm)

South Dandenong v South Melbourne
(George Andrews Reserve, 4pm)

By Roy Hay

South Melbourne Youth was too strong for Albury Wodonga winning by 8-0 in Albury last Friday. South Melbourne dominated on a bumpy pitch, and this week it took its chances which came frequently.

Steve Mancevski scored four goals, Marco Santilli two and Richie Alagich and Okan Simsek scored one apiece. Santilli has been in excellent form this season according to coach Jeff Olver.

Melbourne Knights Academy beat Bulleen Zebras by 3-0 also last Friday night.

This was the first of the Round Seven games.

Sam Kalikias opened the scoring for the Academy after 49 minutes, following an even first half. Jim Alamaris scored twice in the 70th and 75th minutes after coming on as substitute in the 69th minute. Chris Ostadillo, Ante Cirijak and Ivan Razov played very well for the Academy.

South Dandenong had a 2-1 away win against the South Melbourne Eagles Academy at Keilor Park. Viktor Memeti scored first for South Dandenong in 32 minutes, but within a minute Arif El Dib had equalised for the Eagles. Just after the interval Mentor Memeti got the winner for South Dandenong, which held on despite constant Eagles pressure who battled away with ten men for much of the second half.

Green Gully and Fawkner Blues drew 2-2 at Green Gully Reserve. All the goals came in the second half, with Brett Cunningham putting Fawkner in front after 57 minutes. Substitute Victor Donev came on for Green Gully after 64 minutes and equalised five minutes later.

When he scored his second goal after 85 minutes it seemed Gully was going to win, but an 89th minute penalty gave Cunningham the chance to save a point for Fawkner which he did. Alan Vella at stopper and 15-year-old Paul Galea in midfield were the pick of the Green Gully players.

Melbourne Knights beat the VIS by 3-1 at Grange Reserve on Saturday night.

Ricky Chillico got the only goal for the VIS, but three second half goals saw the Knights home.

Jasmin Sehic scored in 61 minutes, followed by last year's top scorer Anthony Pelikan in 78 and Robert Carmignani, from Fawkner, got the third deep into injury time.

Eastern Pride went on the rampage against Preston Lions in the Latrobe Valley scoring nine times without reply. Naum Sekulovski, signed from the VIS, scored four goals. Denis Mustac kept up his incredible record of scoring in every game with two more and Milos Petrevski chimed in with two. Keeper Bojan Jevjedovic came out of goal long enough to score from the penalty spot.

The match between Albury Wodonga and Carlton is to be rescheduled, while Carlton Peninsula Blues and South Melbourne both had byes.

LEADING SCORERS

Denis Mustac	Eastern Pride	9
Josip Loncaric	Melbourne Knights	7
Daniel Debevc	Carlton	6
Nick Waite	Carlton Peninsula Blues	6
Brett Cunningham	Fawkner Blues	6
Viktor Memeti	South Dandenong	6
Steve Mancevski	South Melbourne	6
Juan Nilo	Eastern Pride	5
Arif El Dib	South Melbourne Eagles Acad	5
Marco Santilli	South Melbourne Institute	5

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis continues his weekly look at Junior Soccer in Australia.

Nick Carle

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Nick Carle
Club:	Sydney Olympic
DOB:	23/11/81
Left/Right:	Left
Eye Colour:	Brown
Hair Colour:	Brown
Height:	175cm
Weight:	72kg
Positions Played:	Attacking Midfielder or Striker

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13 - U14 - Blacktown City
U15 - Youth - Sydney Olympic
1997/98 signed a 1st grade contract

Age Started Playing Soccer: 4

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Scoring on my debut against Marconi, playing in the Australian U20 qualifiers and going on the Brazilian tour with the Australian Olympic side.

Ambition: Play overseas and make the U20 Australian squad this year

Words Of Advice: 'Work hard, don't be scared to express yourself and have fun'

Best Advice Received: 'Not to be scared to express myself' *(few coaches)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Mel Gibson
Favourite Actress: Julia Roberts

Top 5 Movies:
-Blood In Blood Out
-Shawshank Redemption
-Gladiator
-Boys In The Hood
-Carlito's Way

Favourite Comedian: Jim Carey
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Jean Claude Van Damme In Bloodsport
Best ever concert: Ricky Martin concert in Sydney

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Keith Sweat
-The Best Collection Of R&B
-Mariah Carey
-Ricky Martin
-2pac

Favourite TV show: Friends
Favourite Cartoon Character: Homer Simpson

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Girlfriend
-Brother (Leo)
-Maradona
-God
-Mel Gibson
-Julia Roberts

Entree: Oysters
Main Course: Lobster
Dessert: Cheesecake

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Marcelo Salas
Favourite Overseas Team: Real Madrid
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Gabriel Mendez & Ante Juric
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Brett Emerton
Most Admired Defender: Fabio Cannavaro
Most Admired Midfielder: Rivaldo
Most Admired Striker: Marcelo Salas
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Clint Bolton
Hardest Opponent (Played): Damon Collina & Sebastian Sinozic

The name Nick Carle is no stranger to Australian soccer. At the tender age of 19, the man with the 'samba' skills is one of Australia's most exciting prospects.

'Nicky' started his youth career with the Blacktown City Demons side, but it was at the Sydney Olympic stable, Carle made a name for himself.

Carle played for the Under 15's of Olympic at the age of thirteen. "I always played one or two grades higher as it was the only way I'd develop well as a player," said Carle.

At the age of 14, Carle cracked the Youth squad where he was mainly on the bench. He was the youngest ever player to play in the National Youth League, an amazing achievement for any young player.

"Playing in the Youth team at the age of 14 was great for my career.

I didn't get that much game time but I showed the coaches at the time that I was first grade material," said Nick.

Carle was rewarded less than a year later when he received a first grade contract at the age of 15.

'It was season 1997/98,

Nick Carle

Geoff Harcombe was coach at the time and he signed me up as one of the future Olympic players,' said Carle.

Debuting at the age of 15 was also another phenomenal feat achieved by Carle, but this by all means was no ordinary debut.

"Marconi was our first match of the season and I was brought into the side.

I couldn't believe my luck when I scored, it was like a dream come true," said the young gun.

Representing your country is a huge honour, and Carle, who has played in both the Joeys and Young Socceroos achievements, feels just as proud to wear the green and gold.

"I played for the U17 Joeys and the U20 Young Socceroos. It was really disappointing with the Joeys as we were the first Australian team not to qualify. We lost in the Oceania final 1-0 to New Zealand, it was a huge set back for all of us.

"I was involved a lot in the U20's but I broke my foot and missed the World Cup in Nigeria. I'm really concentrating on making the U20's side this year, and with the World Cup in Argentina, it would be awesome playing on the world stage' said the young international.

Currently in his third National League season, Carle's name has always been in the spotlight for more reasons than one. He's played well over 50 National League games, and has scored 10 goals in his career so far.

Nick is one of many youngsters in the Olympic squad many people class as the future players in the Australian soccer scene.

"Having players like Macalister, Owens, Doumanis and many more are really good for the club. The key is having a good youth setup and fortunately we have some good young players in the side," said the Olympic star.

One of many new inclusions to last year's champions, Wollongong Wolves, Goalkeeper Grant Barlow knows that he has what it takes to succeed at the best club in Australia.

The 20-year-old star started off his football career, like so many young talented players at the NSWITC.

"I was 13 when I was picked for the ITC side which back then consisted of players like Emerton and Kewell. As a youngster I used this squad as a stepping-stone towards my career in football. I spent three great seasons at the ITC then I moved onto the AIS," said Grant.

The AIS had monitored his success and signed him up as one of their promising young keepers.

"Whilst I was at the ITC, head coach at that time was 'Rocks' (Steve O' Connor). He then moved onto the AIS, and snapped me up. 'Rocks' has been one of the most influential people in my career so far as he's been there from the start.

'The AIS is a class above the rest. The facilities were great, I ended up winning two National Youth League titles at the AIS, and played with many quality players like Bresciano, Colosimo, Maisano, Bosnar, Sterjovski, the list goes on. The AIS was basically the team that helped me mature greatly as a player," said Grant.

As a youngster, Barlow competed in the National Identification tournaments, and represented NSW in the U13, U14 and U15.

After spending two and half good seasons at the AIS, Barlow was snapped up by the Canberra Cosmos.

"Head coach at that time Rale Rasic saw me a couple of times at the AIS and liked what he saw so he decided to sign me up. I managed to play over 30 games at the Cosmos, something which helped me gain National League experience. It was a learning experience

Grant Barlow

at the Cosmos, after coming from the AIS where you basically won everything.

"The Cosmos taught me the hard side of soccer but I'm sure Tommy Sermanni and the boys will be a really competitive side in years to come," said the former Cosmos player.

Grant weighed his options up after his two-year contract at the Cosmos and decided that it was time to depart. "My contract was up at the end of the season and thought that moving to a more mainstream club was the way to go.

"Ron Corry, who coached me whilst I was the ITC for 6 years contacted me and said to come down to the Wolves side. I couldn't refuse the offer of not only playing for last year's champions, but having the chance to play in the World Club Championships in Spain this year," said the Wolves custodian.

Barlow has signed a two-year deal with the South Coast side and is delighted with his form to date.

"I'm pretty happy with my performance, and just hope it gets better as the season progresses. I'm lucky to have a good, solid defence in front of me that keeps the opponents out of the goalmouth," said the former St Leonard's College student.

Grant has also represented Australia in both the U17 and U20 level however both experiences have not been memorable occasions.

"It was disappointing in the Joeys side as we lost 1-0 to New Zealand in the final. After the game we couldn't believe that we didn't qualify for the finals.

"In the U20's, we toured South America and geared ourselves up for the World Cup in Nigeria. However I tore a quad muscle and didn't end up going. I was gutted but life must go on," said the unfortunate young Socceroo.

Barlow's ambitions this year are quite simple. "I really want to play well for my new side and play as many games as I can consistently. I want to win the title this year and hopefully go well in the World Club Championships in Spain next July/August," concluded the promising Wolves goalkeeper.

Grant Barlow

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Grant Barlow
Club:	Wollongong Wolves
DOB:	28/3/80
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Blue
Hair Colour:	Blonde
Height:	193cm
Weight:	87kg
Positions Played:	Goalkeeper

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
-U13 - U15 NSW ITC
-Spent two and half years at the AIS
-Signed for the Canberra Cosmos in season 1998/99 for two seasons
-2000 Joined the Wollongong Wolves

Age Started Playing Soccer: 7

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Being apart of the U17 & U20 Australian sides, playing in World Cup qualifiers
Ambition: To play overseas
Words Of Advice: "Do the simple things well"
Best Advice Received: "Do the simple things well" *(Ron Corry, Wolves Coach)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Mark Wallberg
Favourite Actress: Cameron Diaz

Top 5 Movies:
-Fear
-Rocky I
-Good Will Hunting
-Gladiator
-Braveheart

Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Dirk Diggler from Boogie Nights.
Best ever concert: Slip Inn & Chinese Laundry

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Bon Jovi - Crossroads
-Bon Jovi - Slippery When Wet
-Bon Jovi - New Jersey
-Ministry of Sound Annual 2000
-Slinky

Favourite TV show: The Simpsons
Favourite Cartoon Character: Homer Simpson

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Future Girlfriend
-Homer Simpson
-Kristy Vendy (Model)
-Darth Vader
-Mark Wallberg
-Alana Evans (Model)

Entree: Caesar Salad
Main Course: Seafood
Dessert: Pavlova

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Danny Milosevic
Favourite Overseas Team: Liverpool
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Beren Sullivan
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Marco Bresciano
Most Admired Defender: Simon Colosimo
Most Admired Midfielder: Vince Grella
Most Admired Striker: Mile Sterjovski
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Danny Milosevic
Hardest Opponent (Played): David Cervinski

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

United Stroll to 2-0 win

Sturm Graz	0
Manchester United	2

Paul Scholes and late substitute Ryan Giggs sent Manchester United two points clear at the top of Champions League Group A last week with a convincing 2-0 win over Austria's Sturm Graz.

The win ended United's recent shaky away form in the competition and left them with a maximum six points, two clear of second placed Valencia in the second phase group.

It was Sturm's first home defeat in the Champions League since United beat them 3-0 in the first group stage of last season's competition.

"We're getting better," said United manager Alex Ferguson.

The richest club in the world completely outplayed the runners-up in the Austrian league, surprise qualifiers from the first phase, in the first half.

Dwight Yorke produced the first real chance of a match played in drizzle at Graz's Arnold Schwarzenegger Stadium, but sent the ball over the bar on 15 minutes.

Two minutes later, the breakthrough came with Scholes providing the finish to an inspired touch by veteran England team mate Teddy Sheringham.

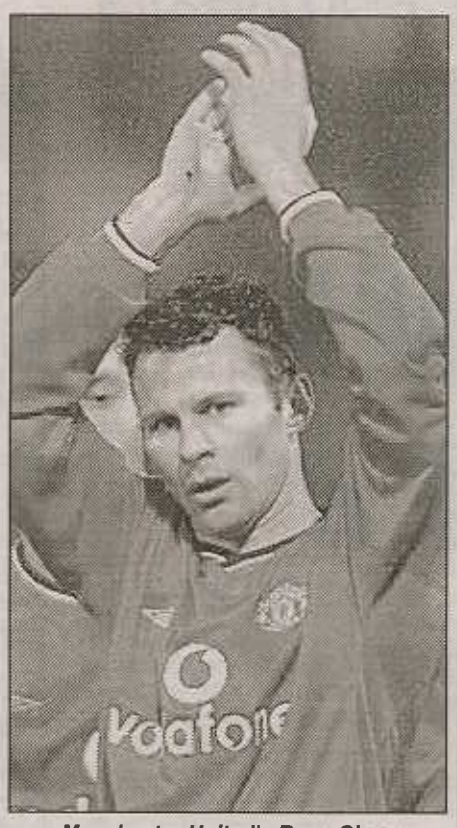
Sheringham added a subtle back flick to a well-centred Yorke cross and the deflection split the Sturm defence. Scholes charged in to beat diving goalkeeper Kazimierz Sidorczuk and clip the ball in from an acute angle.

United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez saved an Ivica Vastic free kick from some 27 metres out in the 35th minute, Sturm's only real opportunity before the break.

But the second half saw the Austrians looking far more determined as United counter-attacked.

Captain Vastic, still recovering from injury, claimed a penalty in the 66th after going down in the area under pressure from Wes Brown and Gary Neville only five minutes before Sturm's biggest chance of the game.

It came in the 72nd minute when a thundering shot from some 20 metres by Tomislav Kocijan hit the crossbar with French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez well beaten.



Manchester United's Ryan Giggs celebrates his goal against Sturm Graz in Graz. United went on to win 2-0.

Sheringham had the ball in the net in the 73rd minute but Roy Keane had already been flagged offside.

Keane almost scored an own goal in the 82nd minute with a header after a shot from Vastic, but Barthez was quick to save.

Giggs, sidelined with a hamstring injury for the last five United games, came on as an 80th minute substitute and scored nine minutes later by slotting home from an acute angle.

Valencia earn a point in Athens

Panathinaikos	0
Valencia	0

Valencia took a deserved point from Panathinaikos after a tight and defensive Champions League, second phase, group A 0-0 stalemate last week.

Valencia invited the hosts to attack and were rarely in trouble against an Athens side that had most of the possession but lacked penetration.

Angelos Anastasiadis's team, robbed by injury of both their playmakers, looked painfully short of the guile required to break down the accomplished Valencia defence.

Panathinaikos's best chance went to Giorgos Karagounis who went close to repeating his Old Trafford goal two weeks ago when he fired a second half free kick on to the bar.

Valencia's central defensive duo of Mauricio Pellegrino and Miroslav Djukic marshalled Panathinaikos strikers Nikos Liberopoulos and Krzysztof Warzycha out of the danger areas throughout, forcing the hosts to look to their full-backs for width.

Panathinaikos' Rene Henriksen (left) and Valencia's John Karew fight for the ball during their 0-0 draw in Athens.

Hector Cuper's men, much like their previous visit to Athens, were content to soak up pressure and looked to feed striker John Carew on the break.

Takis Fyssas, enjoyed a confident first half and got behind the Spanish defence as early as the seventh minute but his cross could not find a team mate.

Liberopoulos finally slipped his minders in the 26th minute to fire in a right foot drive which goalkeeper Santiago Canizares palmed away for a corner.

The second half opened up marginally, with chances for Valencia's Ruben Baraja and Liberopoulos but play remained bogged down in midfield.

Valencia's best effort came from Carew with five minutes to go but his close range shot was well saved by Antonis Nikopolidis.

Disciplined Milan end Deportivo's unbeaten run

Deportivo La Coruna	0
AC Milan	1

A first half injury time goal from AC Milan midfielder Thomas Helveg ended Deportivo La Coruna's unbeaten run in the Champions League this season.

The Italian side won the second phase Group B match 1-0.

Deportivo took the game to Milan in the opening minutes and Turu Flores and Djalminha saw shots drift just wide.

AC Milan's Paolo Maldini (left) kicks the ball away from Deportivo's Emerson.

Victor and Turu Flores looked threatening on the flanks and Brazilian pairing Emerson and Mauro Silva controlled the midfield.

But after a slow start Milan gradually forced their way into the game.

The terrier-like Gennaro Gattuso snapped at the heels of the Deportivo players and made life uncomfortable for lone attacker Diego Tristan.

After 18 minutes Turu Flores unleashed a thunderbolt shot from 35 metres that went just wide.

Milan responded four minutes later when Jose Mari darted into the area and set up Zvonomir Boban but the Croatian skied the ball over the bar.

Deportivo then spurned a golden opportunity to take the lead. Djalminha jinked past three defenders and threaded a neat ball through to Tristan.

He cut the ball back to the Brazilian but he shot straight at Roque Junior, the only defender protecting the goal.

Deportivo began to lose patience as the experienced Milan defence, directed impeccably by Paulo Maldini and Christian Costacurta, constantly frustrated the home side's attacks and played the offside trap to perfection.

Just as the players were anticipating the halftime whistle Milan delivered a hammer blow to the Spanish champions' morale.

As the ball was half cleared from a corner Thomas Helveg popped up on the edge of the area and drilled the ball under Jose Molina to give the Italians the lead and subsequent win.

Davala penalty secures Galatasaray victory

Galatasaray	1
Paris St Germain	0

Substitute Umit Davala converted a 51st minute penalty to give Galatasaray a 1-0 win over Paris St Germain in their Champions League, second phase match last week.

Davala, who came on for the injured Belozoglu Emre in the first half, sent goalkeeper Lionel Letizi the wrong way from the spot after Talal El-Karkouri fouled striker Mario Jardel.

Galatasaray midfielder Umit Davala runs in jubilation past dejected PSG players after scoring the winner from the spot.

It was PSG's first match under new coach Luis Fernandez — who took over from the sacked Philippe Bergeroo — and the new man was unable to work any magic.

The French side came into the Group B game without a win in any of their previous eight matches and without a key pair in injured playmaker Jay Jay Okocha and striker Nicolas Anelka, who made a surprise appearance for the final 20 minutes.

"I'm disappointed we lost but satisfied we fought for the whole 90 minutes," said Fernandez. "This is a young team that will get better."

The Turkish side, UEFA Cup winners last season, dominated without creating many chances. But they seized their opportunity when it came.

PSG goalkeeper Letizi was outstanding in the first half to keep his side in contention. Hasan Sas, who switched between the left wing and down the middle, was the main danger early on, forcing one particularly good save from Letizi.

After half an hour the goalkeeper did well to stop an Emre free kick and then a header from defender Capone.

Just before the break Letizi was again called into action to stop a free kick from Hasan Sas.

PSG enjoyed more possession after the goal but even the introduction of Anelka, who had not been expected to play again this year because of a thigh injury, and Brazilian Christian failed to produce an equaliser.

Their best chances fell to Laurent Leroy who had a goal disallowed for a foul on goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel after 64 minutes and then shot into the side-netting six minutes later.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real trounce Anderlecht

Real Madrid	4
Anderlecht	1

Three first-half goals and a thundering 73rd minute Roberto Carlos free kick gave holders Real Madrid a convincing 4-1 win against Anderlecht in their Champions League Group D match last week.

Fernando Morientes after 12 minutes, a Luis Figo penalty after 23 and a long range volley from Helguera just before the break had Real in control.

Carlos's free kick made it four and substitute Alin Stoica's late shot was little consolation for the visitors.

Anderlecht began sharply with giant forward Jan Koller and the speedy Tomasz Radzinski combining well in attack.

In the fifth minute Real keeper Iker Casillas was forced to react quickly as Koller headed on to set himself up for a chance on goal.

Four minutes later Koller was involved once again as a well-executed one-two opened up the Real defence. His fierce drive rattled the bar, and then rebounded out of harm's way. But the Belgians threatened little thereafter.

After the initial fright Real responded well with Helguera looking in confident mood and Steve McManaman making some penetrating runs on the left.

It was Helguera who set up the first goal when his pass found Morientes perfectly and the Real striker beat one defender and then slotted home from six metres.

A darting run into the area by Raul caught the Anderlecht defence off guard and a desperate challenge from Glen De Boeck brought the Spanish international to the ground. Figo struck from the spot to make it 2-0 after 23 minutes.

Helguera superbly timed a volley straight from a Figo corner made it 3-0 a minute before the break.

Real Madrid striker Luis Figo (left) gets his head to the ball before Anderlecht's Didier Dheedene.

In the second half Real continued where they had left off.

Morientes had a powerful shot blocked on 54 minutes and then spurned a golden opportunity to make it four when his control let him down with just De Wilde to beat.

A mazy run from Claude Makelele after 73 minutes ended with him being brought down just outside the area. The crowd called for Roberto Carlos and the Brazilian defender duly rewarded them with a thundering drive that split the wall and gave De Wilde little chance.

Real relaxed in the last 15 minutes but Stoica's late goal could not spoil the impressive victory that puts them in charge of the competition's toughest group.

Anderson double Sinks Spartak

Olympique Lyon	3
Spartak Moscow	0

Brazilian marksman Sonny Anderson scored a pair of opportunist goals as Olympique Lyon trounced Spartak Moscow 3-0 in the Champions League second phase last week.

The Group C win boosted Lyon's chances of qualifying for the quarter-finals and saw them cheered off after a ruthlessly efficient performance.

Only a week earlier they had been jeered at the same stadium after a 2-2 French league draw against Sedan that had the fans calling for coach Jacques Santini's head.

Steve Marlet opened the scoring for Lyon after just 90 seconds and Anderson then netted twice before the break to put the French side in complete control.

Midfielder Pierre Laigle set up Marlet's opener, threading the ball through the middle for Marlet to beat the offside trap and slot the ball past goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov.

Anderson made it 2-0 after 31 minutes, collecting a through ball from Marlet and clipping it home. He was on target again 10 minutes later when he juggled the ball in the area after good work from Vikash Dhorasoo, hooking it into the net as he tumbled to the turf.

"The whole team played well, but I was there to finish things off," said Anderson.

"We had a superb spirit tonight," said midfielder Philippe Violeau, whose 70th minute free-kick bounced off the Spartak bar. "The coach told us how he wanted us to play and we followed orders."

Spartak finished defiantly with Vasily Baranov hitting the side netting and Artyom Bezrodny forcing a diving save from goalkeeper Gregory Coupet, but Lyon could easily won by more.

Lyon's Sonny Anderson (left) dribbles past Spartak Moskow's Jerry Christian Tchuisse during their Lyon's 3-0 home win, Anderson grabbing a double.

Smith goal crashes Lazio

Lazio	0
Leeds	1

A well-worked 80th minute strike by Alan Smith gave Leeds United a shock 1-0 win at Lazio in Champions League group D and handed the Rome side their second straight defeat in the competition.

Smith played a neat pass inside to Australian striking partner Mark Viduka on the edge of the box.

Viduka back-heeled it into the area, wrong-footing Lazio centreback Fernando Couto, and Smith stroked a low shot past Angelo Peruzzi in the home goal.

The match had appeared to be heading towards a goalless draw which would have been of little use to either side in their bid to reach the knock-out stage of the competition.

But the young Englishman's strike rekindled Leeds' hopes of progressing and leaves Lazio bottom of the group and facing a mammoth task if they are to reach the last eight.

Jonathan Woodgate was outstanding at the heart of a rock solid defence and they dominated the last 20 minutes with a series of patient moves in and around the Lazio box.

David O'Leary's men made the brighter start and created two early chances.

Smith and Woodgate were inches away from connecting with a dangerous freekick from the right in the eighth minute and Norwegian midfielder Eirik Bakke had a header cleared off the line by Attilio Lombardo in the 16th.

But Lazio then found their stride and almost opened the scoring in the 19th minute when Argentine striker Hernan Crespo hooked a corner kick from his compatriot Juan Veron into the side netting.

Two minutes later another fizzing, in-swinging Veron corner found right-back Giuseppe Pancaro at the back post but his reflex header from no more than a metre out thundered off the crossbar.

Pavel Nedved created problems for Leeds by switching from wing to wing and his cross in the 27th minute almost reached Marcelo Salas inside the six-yard box before Woodgate, back pedalling fast, headed the ball clear.

Ten minutes later Salas beat Robinson with a subtle diving header at the back post but Woodgate was there again to clear the ball off the line and deny the Chilean.

Only in injury time did Leeds again threaten when Viduka turned Alessandro Nesta inside the box and crossed for Bowyer, who stormed in at the back post but failed to direct his shot.

The second half was less eventful although Viduka forced a fine reflex save from Peruzzi in the 66th minute before Smith struck to give Leeds one of the finest wins in their European history.

Lazio Fernando Couto (left) puts pressure on Leeds United hero Alan Smith.

Arsenal squander two-goal lead

Arsenal	2
Bayern Munich	2

Arsenal squandered home advantage and a two-goal lead against Bayern Munich in a pulsating 2-2 draw in Group C of the Champions League's second stage.

Arsenal, who had won all three of their home games at Highbury in the first stage of the competition, opened the scoring with Thierry Henry after three minutes and were only denied a second by the woodwork in a tense first half.

Nwanwko Kanu made it 2-0 in the 55th minute but the Germans pulled one back in little more than a minute with Michael Tarnat and playmaker Mehmet Scholl curled home a superb free-kick 10 minutes later for the equaliser.

The draw was a further setback for Arsenal, after losing their opening second-stage match 4-1 at Spartak Moscow, but represents another step forward for Bayern after they beat Olympique Lyon 1-0 last time out.

For what turned into a nightmare finish for most of the 35,000 crowd, Arsenal made a dream start -- scoring with their first attack of the game after Patrick Vieira won possession inside the Arsenal half and fed the ball wide to fellow Frenchman Robert Pires.

Pires broke down the left flank, Henry leapt into the air as the centre came in and allowed the ball to run to Kanu.

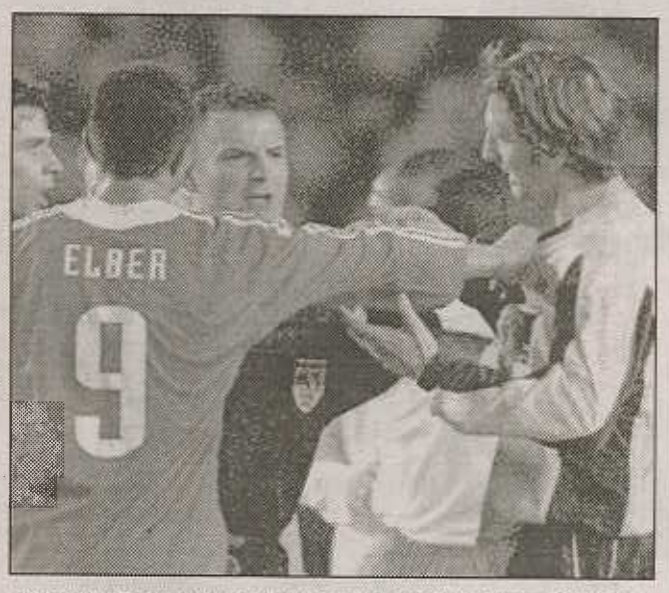
The Nigerian striker returned the favour, threading the ball through for Henry to run in and steer a first-time shot past Oliver Kahn.

Arsenal kept up the pressure with a series of long-distance efforts and a well-worked move involving Henry which nearly saw Fredrik Ljungberg latch on to a dangerous chip into the box.

Kanu then sent the Highbury faithful into raptures after finishing off a fine move, however the night turned sour for the Englishmen from that point onwards.

The Germans pulled one back through Michael Tarnat, once again poor marking by an aging Arsenal backline a worry for coach Arsene Wenger.

With just 10 minutes to go Mehmet Scholl silenced the crowd with a superb free kick which left Arsenalís keeper with no chance. The win puts Bayern on top of the group, whilst Arsenal are bottom, with one point from their two games.



Arsenal's Tony Adams (right) is grabbed by Bayern Munich's Giovane Elber (Number 9) as he argues with Hasan Salihamidzic (left).

WORLD SERIE A

BRESCIA 1 NAPOLI 1

Brescia took the lead at their Mario Rigamonti Stadium just after the half hour mark when defender Aimo Diana found space inside the area and side-footed past Francesco Mancini.

Fabio Pecchia was the hero for Napoli in the 58th minute levelling with a fine 25-metre strike which caught 'keeper Pavel Srnicek out of position.

REGGINA 1 VERONA 1

Reggina, playing at Catania after they were banned from playing at home following crowd trouble, went behind in the opening minute when Emiliano Bonazzoli put Verona ahead.

The Calabrian side looked set for an eighth consecutive defeat until Stovini grabbed the last gasp equaliser.

ATALANTA 0 PERUGIA 0

Atalanta attacked for most of the match but were unable to break the deadlock thanks to a fine effort by Perugia goalkeeper Giuseppe Mazzantini.

Atalanta are in second place, six points behind leaders AS Roma.

BARI 2 BOLOGNA 0

Struggling Bari finally got back in the win column. Defender Antonio Bellavista scored after seven minutes with a cracking right-foot volley from the edge of the box.

One minute into the second half, youngster Antonio Cassano added the second with his second of the season. Bari now have eight points from 10 matches.

FIORENTINA 2 INTER MILAN 0

Enrico Chiesa put Fiorentina in front with a header shortly after the interval and Rui Costa added a second in injury time.

The Portuguese midfielder rounded the keeper and saw his first effort cleared off the line but picked up the ball again and fired it home.

Inter's Christian Vieri had a superb second half strike controversially ruled out for offside.

JUVENTUS 1 PARMA 0

Ciro Ferrara's rare goal, a header in the 14th minute, was enough to give Juventus three points.

Alessandro Del Piero's corner was headed into the centre by Michele Paramatti before Ferrara's final touch nudged the ball into the net. Juventus climb into second with Atalanta.

AC MILAN 4 LEECE 1

Andriy Shevchenko scored twice in four minutes as Milan's good run continued. Brazilian midfielder Leonardo put them ahead in the 20th before Lecce pulled one back.

Shevchenko put Milan back in front with a shot from inside the box and then converted a 30th minute penalty. Spanish international Jose Mari added a fourth three minutes from time.

Napoli's Francelino Matuzalem (left), is tackled by Brescia's Antonio Filippini during their match at the Mario Rigamonti Stadium.

ROMA 2 UDINESE 1

Top-of-the-table Roma stretched their lead to six points with a performance that deserved more goals.

Argentine international Gabriel Batistuta opened the scoring with his 10th goal of the season before Francesco Totti made it 2-0 in the 34th with a superb angled volley which left Udinese goalkeeper Luigi Turci applauding.

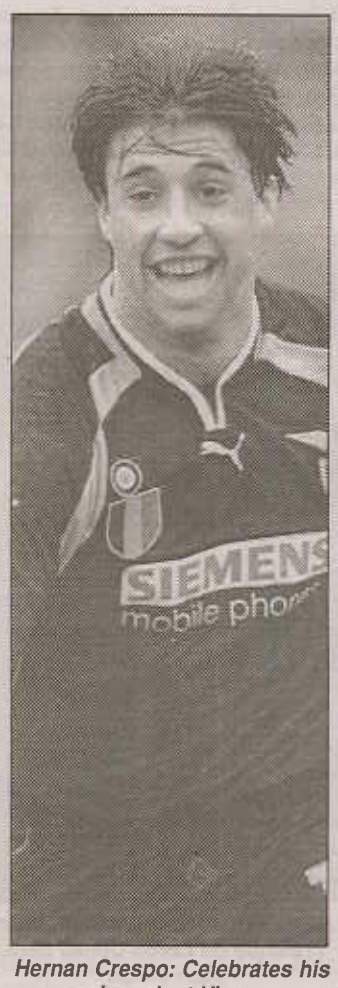
Totti missed a second half penalty and rampant Roma twice hit the woodwork. Early season pace-setters Udinese have now lost their last three.

VICENZA 1 LAZIO 4

Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved opened the scoring for Lazio in the 14th minute with a splendid right foot strike from the edge of the box.

Crespo added a second before the break before Nedved and Marcelo Salas completed the rout. Lazio are now seven points behind Roma ahead of next weekend's derby.

Straight shooter Gabriel Batistuta: Scorer of the opening goal against Udinese.



Hernan Crespo: Celebrates his goal against Vicenza.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

It seems that the Champions League is turning out to be a nightmare for the Italian teams. Lazio appears destined to follow in the footsteps of Juventus.

Juventus were one of the seeded teams, but they ended up winning only one of their six games in that tournament and therefore they went out as real losers.

Leeds Utd last week, at the Olympic Stadium in Rome, have probably inflicted the same fate on Lazio. The surprise victory by the English team means that Lazio are last in their group going into the winter recess of the tournament.

Compounding Lazio's problems is the fact that the quality of the opposition they face in the tournament is certainly very good.

Their next opponents in February are Real Madrid at the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid and it is difficult to see how they might grab a point there.

In short, things seem to be getting tougher and therefore worse for the current Italian champions.

Adding to their pain is the form of their great rivals in the Serie A, AS Roma. Whenever Roma wins then Lazio's supremacy in the capital, a position they fought so hard to get especially last year, is on the downward slide.

No other city in Italy is so fierce in its rivalry - the AC Milan and Inter rivalry in Milan is almost insignificant, when compared to that of the capital city.

Coincidentally that game is on this weekend. Yes, Lazio v Roma is certainly the main attraction of Round 11.

Roma are in great form at the moment much unlike Lazio who are experiencing hot and cold patches.

Derby week in Rome is some experience - the Red and Yellows against the Blue and Whites. The residents of the capital are very divided in terms of their football loyalty – you never support one team and then change over to their rivals because that is the equivalent to treason in Italian football.

However, the majority of Romans would support Roma. Lazio draws on a wider supporter base from around the Rome area, but the heart of the city beats more for the Red and Yellows.

It will be another great contest this weekend and all eyes will be watching the capital because even if the football isn't great entertainment, the rivalry and its associated drama certainly are.

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Napoli and Reggina face each other as well this weekend and this 'Southern Italian derby' will be very interesting. Napoli may have turned the corner under new coach Emiliano Mondonico because the beat Bari 1-0 at home and drew 1-1 away to Brescia last weekend.

These four points will prove to be very valuable as they fight to avoid relegation and it is one point more than they achieved in their first eight games!

The Napoli supporters are a very fickle bunch. They expect good results but the reality is that they haven't got a team capable of delivering those good results that are expected.

However, during their recent two years spent in the Serie B, it was clear that the Serie A was missing them. Without Napoli in the top flight a lot of flair, spirit and character is missing from the Serie A.

Little Reggina took their weekend game, a 1-1 draw with Verona, to Catania – a beautiful little city on Sicily's East Coast. It has been a long time between drinks for Catania because the last time that they had a team in the Serie A was in 1984/85.

Reggina, based in Reggio Calabria, have been banned for using their home ground due to their recent crowd disturbance and hence the temporary move to Catania.

This is excellent for the region of Sicily; often forgotten politically and certainly forgotten about footballing wise.

All the Serie A clubs should be made to play one home match per season in a different city and in particular, in a city where there is no Serie A football.

So while the crowd disturbance is certainly unacceptable, at least some small consolation may come out of this.

The Napoli v Reggina match is very special indeed as these two teams have never previously played each other in the Serie A and after this season, it may be a long while before they play each again in the top flight.

WORLD

PREMIER LEAGUE

ARSENAL 5 NEWCASTLE 0

Thierry Henry scored his 10th league goal of the season in fine style in Arsenal's first real attack, instantly controlling a long pass to get into space and bending the ball home after 13 minutes.

Midfielder Ray Parlour, on the way to a hat-trick, added the second three minutes later with a first-time shot after a through-ball from Nwankwo Kanu.

The Nigerian added the third nine minutes into the second half before Parlour scored in the 86th and 90th minutes.

Charlton Athletic's John Robinson (left) celebrates with team-mates after scoring a late equaliser against Manchester United.

BRADFORD 3 TOTTENHAM 3

The visitors claimed the quickest goal in league history when Ledley King netted after just 10 seconds but Jamie Lawrence bundled home from close range to level.

England defender Sol Campbell put Spurs back in front with a 21st-minute header and Chris Armstrong, set up by Les Ferdinand, seemed to have settled the game after the break. But Dean Windass headed Bradford's second and Benito Carbone equalised with a minute to go.

CHARLTON 3 MAN UNITED 3

South African Shaun Bartlett, making his home debut, hit two goals to earn a standing ovation. He hit the bar early with a diving header before scoring with another near-post header after 10 minutes.

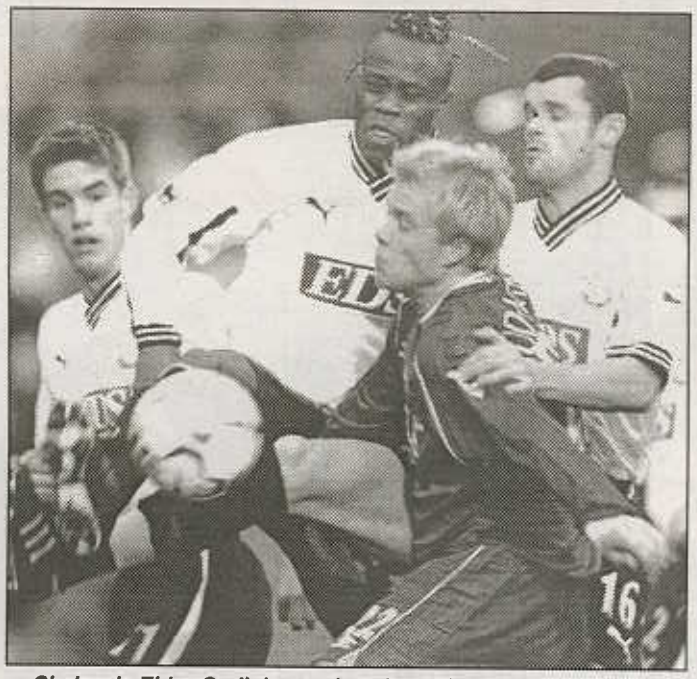
Jonatan Johansson then pulled a shot wide with only goalkeeper Raimond van der Gouw to beat.

After 43 minutes Ryan Giggs bent the ball into the left corner from the edge of the area and then unleashed a volley from near the halfway line a minute later that came back off the bar, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer following up to score. Roy Keane scored his first goal of the season to make it 3-1 before Bartlett got his second and John Robinson earned the draw with five minutes left.

CHELSEA 4 DERBY 1

Iceland international Eidur Gudjohnsen, guaranteed a start in the absence of Chelsea's suspended top scorer Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, scored two early goals within a six-minute spell before Gustavo Poyet killed off the game with a 37th-minute third.

Gianfranco Zola got the fourth following a counter-attack after the break, Derby's consolation coming from Chris Riggott.

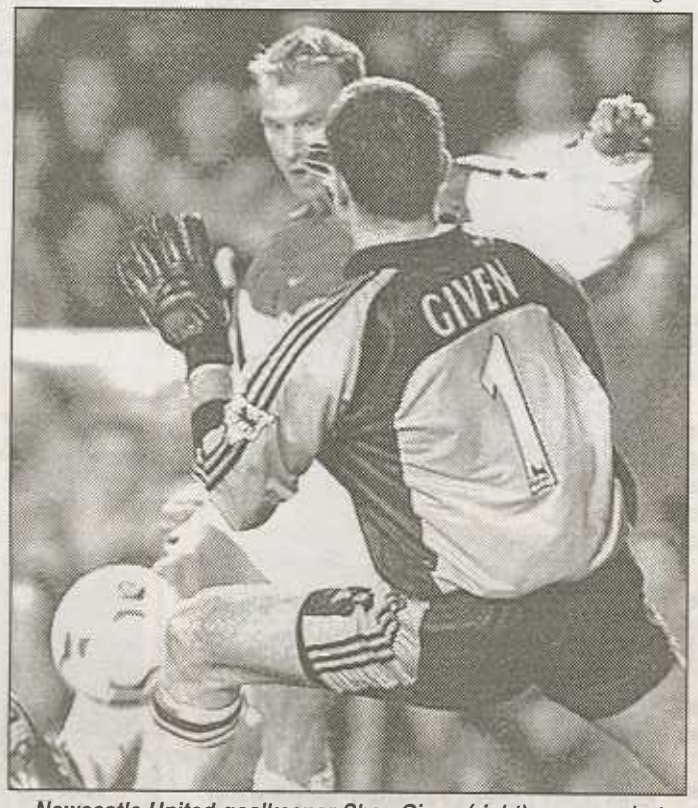


Chelsea's Eidur Gudjohnsen (number 22) scores after getting ahead of Derby County's Lilian Matin (16), Chris Riggott (left), and Taribo West (center).

MAN CITY 5 EVERTON 0

This win ended a run of six defeats for City. Paulo Wanchope scored the first from close range after 14 minutes and Steve Howey, totally unmarked, produced a downward header for the second after 23.

The next goal, from Shaun Goater, followed a flick-on from Wanchope and in the second half Paul Dickov and Gary Naysmith's own goal sealed the rout.



Newcastle United goalkeeper Shay Given (right) saves a shot from Arsenal's Dutch forward Dennis Bergkamp.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 LEEDS UNITED 0

James Beattie scored his seventh goal in six matches after being set up by a nicely weighted pass from Marians Pahars.

Leeds, who beat Lazio in Italy in midweek, have won only one away game all season.

SUNDERLAND 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 0

Sunderland dominated territorially for most of the first half only for Middlesbrough's Hamilton Ricard to have a goal controversially disallowed for offside after netting with a diving header.

Another Ricard shot was brilliantly saved from Thomas Sorensen before rival goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer let a 54th-minute effort from Michael Gray slip through his arms and legs. Ricard was later booked after claiming a penalty.

WEST HAM 1 ASTON VILLA 1

Michael Carrick beat Villa keeper David James from 20 metres, his shot going in off the post after defender Gareth Southgate had headed away a cross.

Lee Hendrie equalised on 37 minutes from 20 yards after a neat pass from David Ginola.

LIVERPOOL 0 IPSWICH 1

Liverpool were well below their best and slumped to their first home defeat of the season as impressive Ipswich maintained their excellent start to the season with their sixth away win.

Afer the midweek win in the UEFA Cup, Liverpool lacked flat and were punished by the impressive Ipswich Twon.

Marcus Stewart scored the only goal in first half injury time, shooting into an empty net after showing neat footwork to rip through the home defence.

COVENTRY 1 LEICESTER 0

Craig Bellamy's 40th minute header from a pinpoint Paul Telfer cross ended a run of seven games without a win for Coventry and moved them out of the bottom three.

Leicester showed all their traditional fighting spirit but failed to create much in the way of chances and dropped to fourth.

FA CUP DRAW

Manchester United, six points clear at the top of the premier league, were handed a trip to Fulham, the runaway leaders of the first division, when the draw for the third round of the FA Cup was made last Sunday.

United, who controversially missed the Cup last year to play in the world club championship, are 4-1 favourites to win the trophy for the 11th time.

Fulham, 10 points clear in division one, play Liverpool in the quarter-finals of the League Cup on Wednesday.

Superstitious fans of Tottenham Hotspur, who are the next most successful club in Cup history with eight wins, believe they are destined to make it nine next May because the year ends in a one.

Tottenham, who won the sport's oldest knockout competition in 1961, 81 and 91, will play away either at minor-league Northwich Victoria or third division Leyton Orient, who drew 3-3 at Northwich over the weekend.

Cup holders Chelsea are at home to Peterborough or Oldham, both from the second division, while last season's runners-up Aston Villa visit Newcastle United.

Bradford City host Middlesbrough in the only other all-premier league tie.

Arsenal, 5-1 second favourites and currently second in the premier league, visit Carlisle United, bottom of the third division.

Of the five minor league teams definitely through, Morecambe, in the third round for only the second time in their history, got the best draw - at home to Ipswich Town, third in the premier league.

Famous Cup fighters and Conference leaders Yeovil, who beat Blackpool 1-0 away on Sunday to claim their 20th league scalp, visit first division Bolton Wanderers, while Dagenham and Redbridge, second in the Conference, are away to Charlton Athletic.

Other ties include Leeds United against Barnsley, Liverpool against Rotherham and Manchester City against Birmingham City.

The third round returns to its traditional slot in the first week of January after an unpopular switch to December last season. The ties will be played on the weekend of January 6/7.

THIRD ROUND

Newcastle United v Aston Villa
Blackburn Rovers v Chester
Morecambe v Ipswich Town
Leeds United v Barnsley
Derby County v West Bromwich
Watford v Everton
Carlisle v Arsenal
Walsall v West Ham United
Swindon v Coventry City
Bolton v Yeovil
Southend v Kingstonian
Huddersfield v Bristol City
Leicester City v York or Reading
Charlton Athletic v Dagenham/Redbridge
Bournemouth v Gillingham
Chelsea v Peterborough or Oldham
Wimbledon v Wigan or Notts County
Northwich or Leyton Orient v Tottenham Hotspur
Burnley v Scunthorpe
Preston v Stockport
Manchester City v Birmingham
Portsmouth v Tranmere
Bradford City v Middlesbrough
Sunderland v Crystal Palace
Cardiff v Crewe
Southampton v Sheffield United
Fulham v Manchester United
Liverpool v Rotherham
Millwall or Wycombe v Grimsby
Nottingham Forest v Wolverhampton
Darlington or Luton v Queens Park Rangers
Sheffield Wednesday v Norwich

Ties to be played over weekend of January 6 and 7.

WORLD

Ferguson issues Man United's warning

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson warned that his club, dominant in the English Premier League this season, are picking up pace in Europe as well.

"We're getting better," he declared after United beat Austria's Sturm Graz 2-0 in their Champions League second phase match to go two points clear of Valencia at the top of Group A.

League leaders United have been impressive at home this season but suffered two defeats and a draw away in the first phase before securing their passage at Old Trafford.

Paul Scholes put the English champions ahead in the 17th minute in Graz but Sturm came back strongly in the second half, Tomislav Kocijan hitting the bar with a fierce shot in the 72nd minute.

"We expected them to have a real go after halftime and they did that," said Ferguson.

"We weathered it. When the boy hit the bar it was a bit hot there but we mainly controlled it quite well."

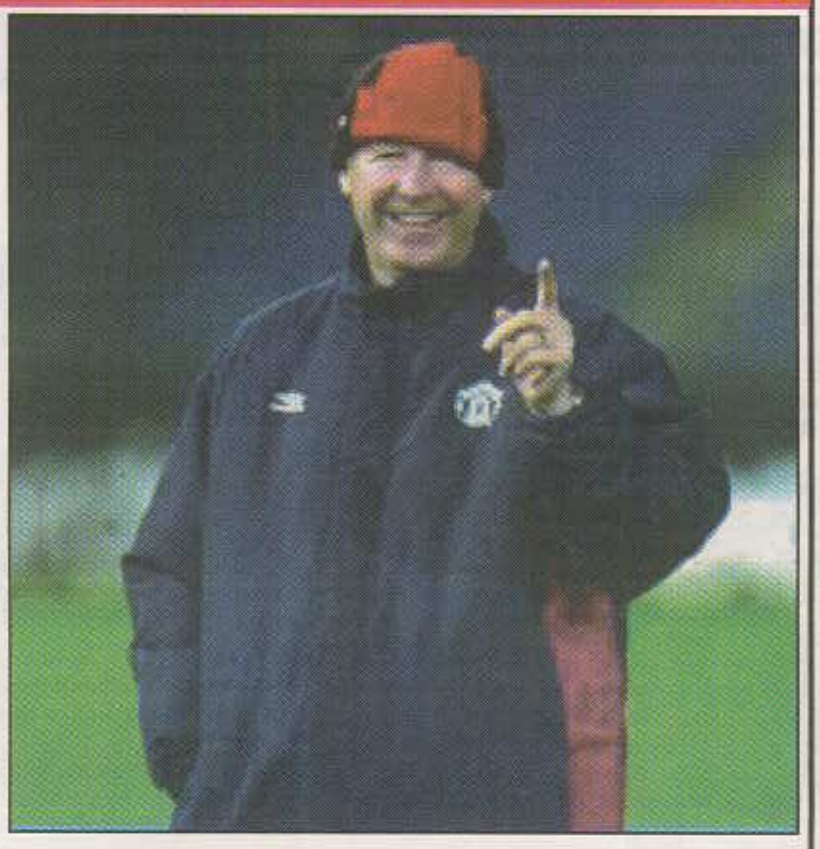
Ferguson said United might even have won by three goals after Teddy Sheringham put the ball into the back of the net only to find the linesman had already flagged for offside.

"I thought the Sheringham goal should have stood because the boy had passed it back but nonetheless we got a good result," said the Scot.

"We're very pleased, we're in a great position."

England midfielder David Beckham added: "We knew this would be a difficult match. We played very good football in the first half and scored. We were more careful in the second half, and fell behind slightly.

"This is a very good result for us."



Alex Ferguson: Says his team are picking up the pace.

O'Leary would like to be a manager in Italy

Leeds United manager David O'Leary says he would like to take charge of an Italian club in the future. O'Leary has given his reputation among Serie A club owners a massive boost by beating both Lazio and Roma in the past two seasons.

He outwitted England manager-in-waiting Sven Goran Eriksson by leading Leeds to a surprise 1-0 Champions League win over Eriksson's Lazio team.

O'Leary told the Yorkshire Evening Post: "One day, when Leeds have had enough of me, I would like to coach abroad and it could be in Italy, a country which I like very much and in which I have many friends."

David O'Leary: Wants to coach in Italy.

The Leeds boss said he had already exceeded his own expectations of how well his managerial career would progress.

Since taking over from George Graham in October 1998, O'Leary has taken Leeds to a UEFA Cup semifinal and the second phase of the current Champions League.

He added: "I was very lucky as a player surviving for 20 years at Arsenal. I had the opportunity to go into TV and talk a good game, but although I enjoy coaching it is a poor second to actually playing.

"I'd learned under other people and I wanted to come in with my own ideas. I just thought I would be a coach who, while not giving goals away, wanted to entertain."

Gascoigne to have hernia operation

Everton and former England midfielder Paul Gascoigne is to have a hernia operation that will keep him out of action for more than four weeks.

The news is a major blow for 33-year-old Gascoigne, who has missed his premier league club's last four matches because of a thigh problem.

His appearance in 13 games this season is due in part to his careful handling by manager Walter Smith.

Gascoigne is joined on the sidelines by striker Francis Jeffers, the England under-21 international, who has had surgery on an ankle injury and is out for two months.

Paul Gascoigne: Will go under the knife and will miss four weeks of football as a result.

Scifo named Charleroi coach

Former Belgian international Enzo Scifo was confirmed as Charleroi coach until at least the end of the season last week.

The decision followed the announcement that injury had forced a premature end to the 34-year-old's playing career.

Scifo will replace Manu Ferrera, dismissed last week for criticising the board in the media. Ferrera is likely to leave the first division club, having earlier been offered a scouting post.

"I hope people will be patient with me, as I haven't put together this team that I've been given," Scifo said.

He plans to take a Belgian FA coaching course, but will not continue beyond this season if he feels he does not make the grade.

Scifo led a consortium which took over the struggling southern Belgium club shortly before they narrowly avoided relegation last season.

Charleroi have made significant progress this season and are currently seventh in the league.

Scifo was Belgium's best known player throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

A classy and stylish midfielder, he had the ability to turn a match with one piece of skill. The national team has failed to replace his creativity since he quit the international scene.

Capped 84 times by his country and scorer of 18 international goals, Scifo spent much of his career playing outside his native Belgium. He had spells at Inter Milan, Bordeaux, Auxerre, Torino and Monaco, before returning to Anderlecht in 1997.

Enzo Scifo: Coach of Charleroi until the end of the season.

Venables attacks FA for appointing Eriksson

Terry Venables has launched an attack on the English Football Association for selecting Sven Goran Eriksson as England manager.

The former England coach, who has joined Premier League Middlesbrough until the end of the season as first team coach, said in an article in *Match of The Day Magazine* that the FA's decision to look abroad has undermined the English game and the appointment is little more than a publicity stunt.

"By choosing to go to a foreign situation we've chosen to say we are not a power any more but we, the FA, will show you the way forward. Show you how clever we are because we are designer people now, we're not old farts any more," Venables said.

Overlooked as Kevin Keegan's replacement in favour of the Swede, Venables even suggested he would find it hard to support a national team managed by a foreigner.

"If Hoddle and Keegan had done well, I'd celebrate like mad," Venables said.

"I've nothing against him (Eriksson), he looks like a gentleman, I just find it difficult.

Put it this way: I don't think it's a good idea.

"It's like saying, 'We're in the war and we've got no generals. Well, what's Rommel doing?

New Middlesbrough first team coach Terry Venables (right) and current club manager Bryan Robson (left).

Manchester United ranked the world's richest club

Manchester United have been ranked as the world's richest football club for the third year running in the Deloitte and Touche/FourFourTwo Rich List survey announced.

United took the top spot ahead of Bayern Munich -- beaten in the last minutes of the Champion's League Final in 1999 by the English champions -- runners up in the survey, which is based on the 1998/1999 season.

Bayern's turnover of 83.5 million pounds was 33 percent less than Manchester United's, whose success in winning the UK soccer treble — the Champion's League, the English Premier League and the FA Cup — helped push turnover that year up to 110.9 million pounds.

The Premiership dominated the list with eight clubs, including Chelsea, Arsenal and Liverpool, in the top 20 of the world's richest clubs. Scotland's top clubs Celtic and Rangers also bolstered the UK contingent.

"English clubs have a financial advantage over their continental rivals in owning their grounds. This brings other potential revenue streams to the 'kicks and mortar' business model," said Gerry Boon, partner in charge at Deloitte & Touche Sport.

Gate receipts were still the largest part of Premiership club revenues, but executive boxes have become an essential part of income, the survey said.

"The average Premiership club earns enough from its executive boxes to pay three players' wages, so the 'prawn sandwich contingent' is essential to English clubs' financial success," said FourFourTwo editor Michael Hann.

Manchester United captain Roy Keane recently complained about the number of corporate fans coming to matches, saying they were too busy eating their prawn sandwiches to watch games properly.

David Beckham: A member of the World's richest team.

The combined income of the 20 richest clubs, which also include current Champions League title holders Real Madrid and Barcelona from Spain and top Italian clubs Lazio and Juventus, has topped the billion pound mark, at 1.05 billion pounds.

This is an increase of 15 percent in the top flight over the previous year, but even among the top 20 clubs there is a stark disparity between the top and bottom.

Manchester United's turnover compares with 20th placed Celtic, which made 33.8 million pounds that year.

WORLD CHAMPIONS FAIL TO QUALIFY

France, the country which produced the World Cup winning team in 1998 and won this year's European championships Euro 2000, failed to place a single club in the top 20.

The highest ranking French clubs were Olympique Marseille and Paris St Germain in 22nd and 25th place respectively.

Traditionally football has not been as popular in France as in many other countries, and French clubs also rent their stadia, but this has started to change with the recent success of the national team, the survey said.

Significantly many players in France's national squad play in the English Premiership, Italy's Serie A or in Germany's Bundesliga.

TV DEALS TO MAKE THE RICH RICHER

The flow of money from recent TV deals could produce massive revenues next year.

British Sky Broadcasting successfully bid 1.11 billion pounds to retain the rights to show live games over the next three years.

It is more than double BSkyB's previous bill, which was 670 million for a four-year package and the latest deal, which also includes a 183 million pound highlights deal from ITV, will give the Premier League a 1.6 billion pound windfall.

"The English Premier League TV deal will also produce massive revenues in 2001/2 and it could be all change among the top 20 over the next couple of years," said Gerry Boon.

Spanish and Italian clubs have recently won the right to negotiate their own TV deals, which should propel them higher in future rankings.

Ex-World Cup star Careca appearing at Commission inquiry

Former Brazil World Cup player Careca is to appear before a Congressional commission of inquiry over the issue of counterfeit Portuguese passports for Brazilian players, an official said last week.

The commission believes that Careca, now an agent, can provide information which will help them discover who is involved in the so-called passport mafia, its spokesman said.

He will be questioned along with three other agents and the president of the provincial club Uniao Sao Joao, which has sold several players to European clubs in the last two years, the spokesman said.

Careca, who played alongside Diego Maradona at Napoli in the 1980s and in the 1986 and 1990 World Cups for his country, has been working as an agent since he retired as a player two years ago.

A number of Brazilian players have been caught with counterfeit Portuguese passports in Europe this year.

The most high profile cases have involved former international goalkeeper Dida, who plays for Italy's AC Milan, and Corinthians midfielder Edu.

Edu's $9 million transfer to English premier league side Arsenal fell through earlier this year when he was caught at London's Heathrow airport with a fake passport and sent back to Brazil on the next flight.

Brazilian players can move abroad more easily if they have a European Union passport as many countries have limits on the number of non-EU players a club can field.

The commission in Brazil's lower house is one of two which is investigating the country's national sport, following a public outcry over the way the game is administered. The second commission is in the Senate.

Careca: To be questioned over counterfeit passports.

Barcelona stars criticise coach

Barcelona players Ivan de la Pena and Dani have criticised coach Lloreac Serra Ferrer after being dropped.

Forward Dani told Spanish web site libredirecto.com: "I haven't felt that I have been supported by the coach at certain key moments.

"I don't want to leave the club, but if it continues like this until the end of the season I will have to think about it."

Midfielder de la Pena, signed from Lazio at the beginning of the season, is also unhappy.

"I started off playing, but now I have disappeared from the line-ups," he said. "I don't understand it. I was playing well and all of a sudden I am not in the team any more.

"Ever since I have been left out of the team the coach hasn't spoken to me. He hasn't given me any explanation for what has happened."

The Spanish media have been speculating about Serra Ferrer's future following the Catalan club's exit from the Champions League and a string of mediocre domestic performances that have left them seventh in the Spanish league.

But club president Joan Gaspart has stressed his confidence in the coach and said his position is not in question.

Ivan de la Pena: Former Lazio man critical of his Barcelona coach.

Knee operation for Shearer

Newcastle captain Alan Shearer will undergo keyhole surgery for a long-standing knee injury.

The former England skipper said a specialist had advised him to have an exploratory operation which could rule him out for two weeks.

Shearer said: "I have been feeling the knee a bit lately and it has been getting worse.

"I am going to have to rest for a week but I am still hopeful of being fit for our game with Bradford City."

The former England striker, 30, had hoped to face Arsenal in a premier league game over the weekend after missing the trip to Aston Villa with the injury.

It was the first game Shearer had missed since manager Bobby Robson took charge at St James' Park 14 months ago.

Alan Shearer: Set to undergo keyhole surgery.

WORLD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Manchester Utd	3	Panathinaikos	1
Valencia	2	Sturm Graz	0
Sturm Graz	0	Manchester Utd	2
		Paul Scholes 17 Ryan Giggs 89	
Panathinaikos	0	Valencia	0

Table

Manchester Utd	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Valencia	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Panathinaikos	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Sturm Graz	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

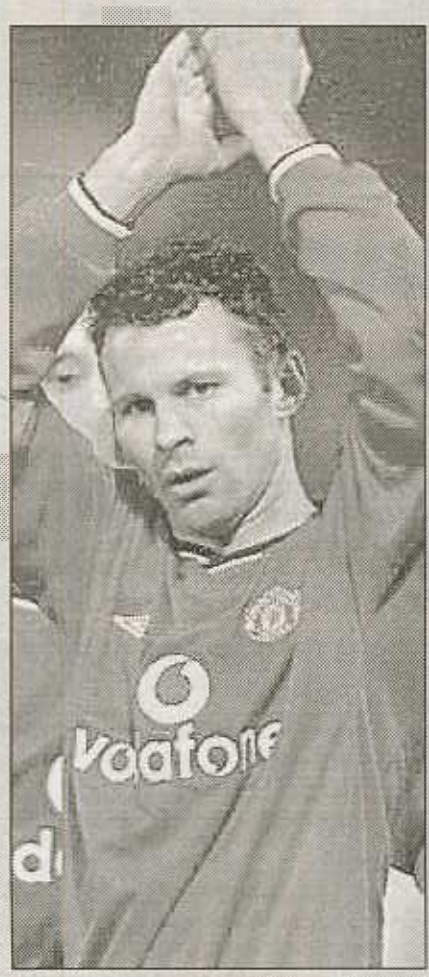
Remaining Fixtures:

Wednesday, February 14
Sturm Graz v Panathinaikos
Valencia v Manchester United

Tuesday, February 20
Panathinaikos v Sturm Graz
Manchester United v Valencia

Wednesday, March 7
Sturm Graz v Valencia
Panathinaikos v Manchester United

Tuesday, March 13
Valencia v Panathinaikos
Manchester United v Sturm Graz



Manchester United's Ryan Giggs celebrates his goal against Strum Graz during United's 2-0 win away from home.

GROUP B

Paris St Germain	1	Deportivo Coruna	3
AC Milan	2	Galatasaray	2
Galatasaray	1	Paris St Germain	0
Umit Davala 51pen			
Deportivo Coruna	0	AC Milan	1
		Thomas Helveg 45	

Table

AC Milan	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Galatasaray	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Deportivo Coruna	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Paris St Germain	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Remaining Fixtures:

Wednesday, February 14
Galatasaray v Deportivo Coruna
AC Milan v Paris St Germain

Tuesday, February 20
Deportivo Coruna v Galatasaray
Paris St Germain v AC Milan

Wednesday, March 7
Galatasaray v AC Milan
Deportivo Coruna v Paris St Germain

Tuesday, March 13
AC Milan v Deportivo Coruna
Paris St Germain v Galatasaray

Galatasaray striker Mario Jardel (centre) and Olivera Capone (top) jump over midfielder Umit Davala (right) hugged by defender Fatih Akyel (left) as they celebrate a penalty by Umit.

GROUP C

Spartak Moscow	4	Arsenal	1
Bayern Munich	1	Olympique Lyon	0
Olympique Lyon	3	Spartak Moscow	0
Steve Mariet 2 Sonny Anderson 31, 41			
Arsenal	2	Bayern Munich	2
Henry 3, Kanu 55		Tarnat 56, Scholl 66	

Table

Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Olympique Lyon	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Spartak Moscow	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Arsenal	2	0	1	1	3	6	1

Remaining Fixtures:

Tuesday, February 13
Olympique Lyon v Arsenal
Bayern Munich v Spartak Moscow

Wednesday, February 21
Arsenal v Olympique Lyon
Spartak Moscow v Bayern Munich

Tuesday, March 6
Olympique Lyon v Bayern Munich
Arsenal v Spartak Moscow

Wednesday, March 14
Bayern Munich v Arsenal
Spartak Moscow v Olympique Lyon

Brazilian Sonny Anderson, two goal hero against Spartak Moscow.

GROUP D

Leeds United	0	Real Madrid	2
Anderlecht	1	Lazio	0
Real Madrid	4	Anderlecht	1
Morientes 12 Luis Figo 23pen Helguera 44 Roberto Carlos 73		Alin Stoica 89	
Lazio	0	Leeds United	1
		Alan Smith 80	

Table

Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Leeds United	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Anderlecht	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Lazio	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

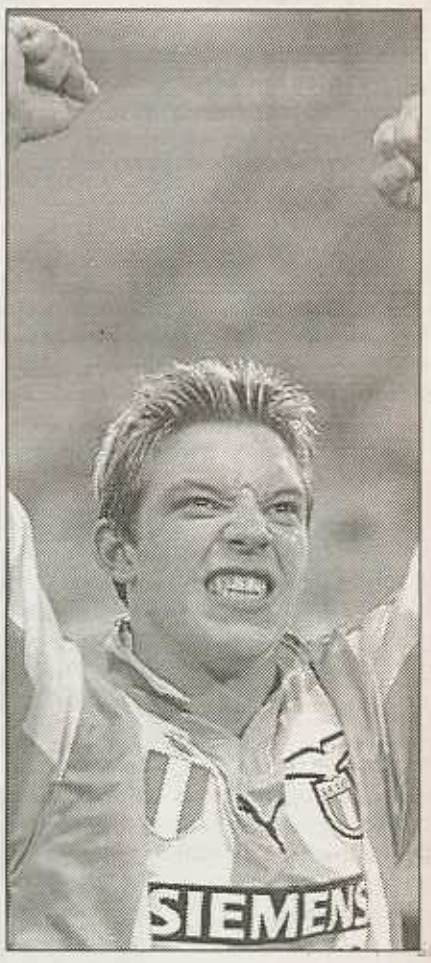
Remaining Fixtures:

Tuesday, February 13
Real Madrid v Lazio
Leeds United v Anderlecht

Wednesday, February 21
Lazio v Real Madrid
Anderlecht v Leeds United

Tuesday, March 6
Real Madrid v Leeds United
Lazio v Anderlecht

Wednesday, March 14
Leeds United v Lazio
Anderlecht v Real Madrid



Leeds United striker Alan Smith wears a Lazio jersey as he celebrates scoring the winner against Lazio in Rome to secure a 1-0 win.

SECOND PHASE
November 21/22 to March 13/14, 2001

QUARTER-FINAL
First Leg — April 3/4
Second Leg — April 17/18, 2001

SEMI-FINAL
First Leg — May 1/2
Second Leg — May 8/9, 2001

FINAL
Wednesday, May 23
In Milan

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until December 15)

1	Brazil	69	Congo DR	136	Luxemburg
2	France	70	Kuwait	138	Lesotho
3	Argentina	71	China PR	139	Fiji
4	Czech Republic	72	Estonia	140	Grenada
5	Italy	73	Burkina Faso	141=	Ethiopia
6	Spain	74=	**AUSTRALIA**	141=	Tajikistan
7	Portugal	74=	FYR Macedonia	143	Korea DPR
8	Germany	76	Cuba	144	Liechtenstein
9	Yugoslavia	76	Bosnia-Herzegovina	145	Andorra
10	Netherland	78	Guinea	146	St Kitts & Nevis
11	Mexico	79	Lithuania	147=	Antigua & Barbuda
12	Paraguay	80	Iraq	147=	Benin
13	Romania	81	Albania	149	Bangladesh
14	Norway	82	Algeria	150	Dominica
15	Colombia	83	Togo	151=	Botswana
16=	England	84	Haiti	151=	Sri Lanka
16=	Croatia	85	Congo	153	Bermuda
18	United States	86	Namibia	154	Maldives
19	Chile	87	Senegal	155	Gambia
20	Scotland	88	Gabon	156	Dominican Republic
21	Russia	89	El Salvador	157	Cape Verde Islands
22	Sweden	90=	Northern Ireland	158	Cayman Islands
23	South Africa	90=	Armenia	159	Yemen
24	Denmark	92	New Zealand	160	Mauritania
25	Tunisia	93	Mali	161	Chinese Taipei
26	Belgium	94	Latvia	162	Chad
27	Slovakia	95=	Liberia	163=	Surinam
28=	Morocco	95=	Belarus	163=	Eritrea
28=	Turkey	97	Moldova	165	Laos
30	Trinidad & Tobago	98	Vietnam SR	166	Nepal
31	Ukraine	99	Qatar	167=	Vanuatu
32	Egypt	100	Singapore	167=	Cambodia
33	Ireland Republic	101	Syria	169	San Marino
34	Japan	102	Barbados	170	Cook Islands
35	Saudi Arabia	103	Uganda	171	Palestine
36=	Uruguay	104=	Jordan	172	British Virgin Is.
36=	Israel	104=	Indonesia	173	Samoa
38	Slovenia	106	Kenya	174	Netherlands Antilles
39	Korea Republic	107	Wales	175	Kyrgyzstan
40=	Iran	108	Oman	176=	Guinea-Bissau
40=	Cameroon	109	Malaysia	176=	Central African Rep.
42	Greece	110	Lebanon	178	Bahamas
42	Austria	111	Venezuela	179=	Sao Tome e Principe
44	Poland	112	Mozambique	179=	Macao
45	Peru	113	Malawi	181	Niger
46	Jamaica	114	Azerbaijan	182	Philippines
47	Zambia	115	Madagascar	182	Guyana
48	Hungary	116=	Faroe Islands	184	Tonga
49	Iceland	116=	India	185	Aruba
50	Honduras	118=	Malta	186	Belize
51	Nigeria	118=	Mauritius	187	Equatorial Guinea
52	Cote d' Ivoire	120	Libya	188	Seychelles
53	Angola	121	Kazakhstan	189	Pakistan
54	Bulgaria	122	Panama	190	Nicaragua
55	Finland	123	Myanmar	191	Papua New Guinea
56	Costa Rica	124	Turkmenistan	192	Djibouti
56	Ghana	125	St Vincent/Gr	193	Brunei Darussalam
58	Ecuador	126	Sierra Leone	194	Puerto Rico
59	Switzerland	127	Rwanda	195	Somalia
60	UAE	128	Hong Kong	196	Mongolia
61	Guatemala	129	Burundi	197=	Anguilla
62	Thailand	130=	Tahiti	197=	US Virgin Islands
63	Canada	130=	Sudan	199	Turks and Caicos Is
64	Georgia	132	Solomon Islands	200	Bhutan
65	Uzbekistan	133	St Lucia	200	Guam
66	Bolivia	134	Bahrain	202	Montserrat
67	Cyprus	135	Swaziland	203	American Samoa
68	Zimbabwe	136	Tanzania		

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet to do not appear in the table.*

Leonardo vows to stay with Milan

AC Milan's Brazilian striker Leonardo said he plans to stay with the Serie A club until the end of his contract in June.

The former Brazilian international had announced he would quit the San Siro in January when the Italian transfer market re-opens.

But after scoring twice after being recalled to the side for the Italian Cup match against Atalanta he started against Udinese in Serie A, prompting a change of heart from the former Paris St. Germain striker.

"After the cup match against Atalanta there was a great show of affection which heavily influenced my decision," Leonardo told Milan's official website.

"I would like to thank everyone, the fans and my team mates for the respect and warmth they have shown me."

Leonardo: Staying at Milan.

Leonardo also said that Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani had refused to support his decision to leave the club.

"Galliani's persistence also swayed me. He told me in the dressing-room in Udine that he would not back any move of mine to leave and urged me to see out my contract.

"I've had my share of injuries and I genuinely thought that leaving would be the best solution, both for me and the club. It would have hurt to end it all like that but to stay for six months and not play would not have made sense.

"People were saying that I was always injured and could not string together three games in a row. It really got to me."

Leonardo said he had also cleared the air with Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni.

"I have two to three years maximum left in my career. I am now happy to stay until June because everything has been resolved with Zaccheroni. I now know that I am still an important member of the squad.

"This was not a premeditated move on my part to get assurances that I would play and I never thought about leaving Milan for purely financial gain. Just as I don't expect to play in all the games."

Galliani said he had been determined to persuade Leonardo to stay.

"I pushed as hard as I could and in the end managed to convince him. He had no problem with the club or the manager. It was simply that he no longer felt he had a role in the team. That's understandable for someone who has captained Brazil."

Singapore players face lie-detector tests

Soccer players in Singapore may face lie-detector tests next year as the local league battles to stamp out match-fixing and restore the confidence of bettors.

"We came up with this players' code of conduct," Chris Chan, chief executive of the professional S-league, said.

"And we decided to add one more clause which says the player is willing to subject himself to a polygraph examination if directed, just like doping testing."

Players may be subjected to the tests if they are under investigation by the police for match-fixing, while officials such as referees may also face testing, Chan said.

The Football Association of Singapore's (FAS) move aims to restore confidence in the five-year-old S-league, which has been plagued by allegations of corruption this year.

Singapore will be the first country to use lie-detector tests on players, the international watchdog Federation Internationale de Football Association was quoted as saying in the *Straits Times* newspaper.

Polygraph results have never been submitted to Singapore courts before.

One goal of the FAS plan is to win back betting dollars.

Legalised football gambling, introduced in Singapore in 1999 to combat illegal bookmakers and match-fixing, raked in S$200 million (US$115 million) in bets last year.

But revenues have dropped by an estimated 25-30 percent this year as punters have grown disillusioned.

Two foreign players, charged with match-fixing in August, await trial. The case is not the first.

Last October, a Croatian footballer belonging to a local team was attacked by a bookie wielding a hockey stick the day before a match. The bookie was sentenced to 16 months in jail.

In 1994, a major bribery scandal erupted when Singapore police arrested a striker and referee for fixing six matches in the 16-team Malaysian league.

The incident led to the banning of a fifth of players and to Singapore's withdrawal from the league.

Charges against Jones dropped

David Jones, the former Southampton manager, walked free from court last week after all 14 charges made against him of sexual abuse against boys were dropped.

The judge at Liverpool Crown Court told Jones, 44, that he would "leave this court as you entered it — a free man".

Earlier, the trial was halted and the jury instructed to return not guilty verdicts on two charges of indecent assault and two charges of causing actual bodily harm, after a witness failed to give evidence against him.

The prosecution declined to ask for a retrial, leaving Jones to walk free.

Jones, a father of four, had pleaded not guilty to a total of 14 charges.

The former Everton and Coventry City defender worked at a residential home in north-west England for children with emotional and behavioural problems between 1986 and 1990.

He was accused of abusing four boys at the school.

David Jones (left) and Ken Monkou (right): Jones walks free from court.

Soccer chiefs ask EU for timeout in transfer talks

The European Commission has postponed a crucial meeting on the future of the soccer transfer system after the sport's governing bodies asked for more time to prepare their negotiating position.

The key meeting, due to take place in Brussels, has now been tentatively pencilled in for December 12, Commission spokeswoman Amelia Torres said.

"The delay is at their request. They're not ready and say they need more time to clarify where they stand," she said.

The delay comes as time runs short for the two sides to reach an accord which would stop the Commission declaring the existing system illegal.

It also comes as EU leaders are being lobbied hard by sports federations later this week to give sport a special status under EU law.

The Commission, which oversees the EU's Single Market, argues the current system breaks EU laws and abuses workers' rights to ply their trade anywhere in Europe.

FIFA tabled proposals late last month to revamp the system but European Competition Commissioner Mario Monti said these were too vague.

An initial technical meeting last month made some progress but next week is expected to see some serious talking.

Soccer's leading figures say abolishing the current system would plunge football into chaos, squeezing small clubs and prompting a free-for-all as players move between clubs at will.

A FIFA/UEFA Task Force submitted its proposals on October 31 but these were not backed by the FIFPro players' union.

The proposals include a ban on the international transfer of minors, compensation for clubs which have trained young players, "respect for contracts", set periods during the year when transfers can take place, a system of arbitration and arrangements to smooth the transition to a new system.

Madrid still have work to do – Del Bosque

Vicente Del Bosque: Happy with his teams performance against Anderlecht.

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque said his team's impressive 4-1 Champions League victory over Anderlecht was a reflection of his team's authoritative first half performance.

"We commanded the game in the first half and the early goals took their toll on Anderlecht," he said of his team's first half efforts that yielded a 3-0 halftime lead.

"We responded very well to their initial threats and then took control."

But Del Bosque said that it was far too early to presume that Real had sewn up qualification for the knock-out phase, especially with back-to-back games against Lazio to come in February.

"We have got six points from our first two games, but we did that last year and then suffered a great deal before we qualified," he said.

"We must keep concentrating on our own game and that way we will improve on our weaknesses and progress further in the competition."

Anderlecht coach Aime Anthuenis praised the Spaniard's team performance. "We found a Real Madrid in really good form," said Anthuenis."

They have great individuals, but the main thing was that they played like a true team."

The Anderlecht boss said that the difference between this game and his team's victory over Lazio in the first of their second phase games was Real's team work.

"Lazio have great individuals, but they played for themselves, whereas Real also have the individuals but played like a team."

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Argentine team threatened by armed men

Struggling First Division club Los Andes abandoned a practice session when a gang of armed men, claiming to be disgruntled supporters, invaded the training ground and threatened the team, players said last week.

Around half a dozen men carrying pistols insulted various players and punched striker German Denis in the face after forcing their way onto the club, which is located on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, players said.

The incident happened less than 24 hours after the newly-promoted team, who have won only three out of 17 matches in the Argentine Apertura championship, were hammered 5-2 by fellow strugglers Argentinos Juniors.

Argentine soccer is plagued by violence from notorious fans known locally as "barrabravas".

Oscar Monje, one of the Los Andes players, said the team would move to a different, safer site. "From now until the end of the championship, we are moving to a place for which we have asked for better security," he said.

According to Buenos Aires newspaper *Clarin*, whose reporter witnessed the events, the men arrived in three cars and sped up to the entrance with tyres screeching.

They forced their way past the private security guards, drove inside and marched onto the field. They then told coach Miguel Angel Russo: "This is with the players, not you."

After attacking Denis, the men spent five minutes remonstrating with other players before shouting: "It's time to win a match." They then threatened reporters and photographers before leaving, Clarin said.

Uruguayan players released after a week in jail

Nine players from Uruguay's two biggest soocer clubs, who were jailed after an on-pitch brawl, have been released after spending more than a week in custody, legal sources said.

The players -- six from Penarol and three from bitter rivals Nacional -- plus Penarol coach Julio Ribas were freed from Montevideo's central prison after agreeing to do community service and on a pledge of good behaviour.

Judge Pablo Eguren ordered them to be held in custody for their part in the brawl at the end of a 1-1 draw in a Uruguayan championship match.

Players kicked and punched each other before riot police moved in. Ribas was accused by his opponents of starting the trouble.

A total of 17 players -- including all of those jailed -- have been banned indefinitely by the Uruguayan Football Association (UAF).

Penarol went on to win their next two matches after the brawl and take the second stage of the championship, qualifying for the final against Nacional who had won the first stage earlier in the year.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth, which is responsible for organising the community service, said the players would probably be asked to give football lessons to young children, working 20 hours a week throughout January when the football season takes a break.

Uruguay used to be a major power in international football, winning the Olympic tournaments in 1924 and 1928 and then two World Cups, in 1930 and 1950. For years, Penarol and Nacional were among the most powerful clubs in the world.

But Uruguayan soccer has spiraled into decline in the last two decades and acquired a reputation for violence.

Last year, Penarol were involved in another rumpus when their players attacked Brazilian opponents Flamengo after being knocked out of the Copa Mercosur in Montevideo.

Three Flamengo players were injured, one after slipping down a staircase, as they were chased off the pitch.

Ten Penarol players were given bans of between three and 10 Mercosur matches.

Staunton returns to Villa

Steve Staunton has signed for Aston Villa on a free transfer two years after switching to Liverpool from Villa Park.

The 31-year-old Republic of Ireland international defender made 50 appearances for the Reds but has been told by manager Gerard Houllier that he has no future with the squad.

He was recently loaned out to first division Crystal Palace, but was recalled to play in the Uefa Cup tie against Olympiakos last month — his last game for Liverpool.

Staunton was keen to find first team football to help extend an international career that has already seen him win 85 caps for the Republic.

He previously played 256 times for Aston Villa in a seven-year spell from 1991 to 1998.

Steve Staunton: Resigns with Villa.

Esnaider returns to Zaragoza

Juventus striker Juan Eduardo Esnaider is set to rejoin Real Zaragoza on a loan deal lasting for the rest of the season, the Spanish press reported last week.

The deal, said to be worth 200 million pesetas ($1.07 million), is due to be concluded this week and includes an option for the Spanish club to buy the player at the end of the season.

Club president Alfonso Solans has made no secret of his desire to see the Argentine forward return to the club where he played an instrumental role in the side's European Cup Winners' Cup victory in the 1994-95 season.

Zaragoza are in 16th position in the 20-team Spanish first Division.

The Argentine will be eligible to play for the team once the Spanish transfer market officially reopens on December 15.

Eduardo Esnaider: Returning to Real Zaragoza.

Player banned for pushing ref

Guarani striker Hugo Ovelar has been banned for 90 days for pushing a referee in a stormy Paraguayan championship match, the Paraguayan Football Assocation said last week.

Ovelar was sent off for the push as outsiders Guarani were beaten 1-0 by Olimpia. Olimpia went on to win the championship by beating the same opponents 3-1.

Guarani claimed they were denied a penalty, had a goal wrongly disallowed and that Olimpia should have had a defender sent off in the first match.

Ovelar said he was considering taking the matter to court as the suspension could ruin his attempts to move to a club in Mexico.

Zico's son given trial at Udinese

The son of eighties Brazil star Zico is on trial with Serie A club Udinese, Italian newspapers reported last week.

The 23-year-old midfielder Junior Coimbra will train with his father's former club for two weeks.

"Zico Junior" began his playing career in the youth team of Brazilian club Fluminese before moving to second division Rio club CFZ.

TV GUIDE

*** All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time**

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm — 4.30pm

WED DECEMBER 13

Fox Sports Gold
Chelsea v Man United
1999/2000 Season
Fox Sports
6pm — 7pm

Soccer Central
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm — 8.30pm

European Soccer Show
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
10pm — 11pm

THURS DECEMBER 14

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
12pm — 1.30pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15

How The FA Cup Was Won
Chelsea vs Aston Villa
Fox Sports 2
11.30pm — 3am

National Soccer League
Newcastle vs South Melbourne (LIVE)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm — 9.30pm

SAT DECEMBER 16

GOL ESPN
Football Extra
Optus (ESPN)
9.30am — 10am

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports 2
11.30am — 1pm

Spanish Primera Liga
Fox Sports 2
1pm — 3pm

UEFA Champions League
SBS TV
3.30pm — 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm — 5.30pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV
5.30pm — 6.30pm

National Soccer League
Brisbane vs Auckland (LIVE)
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
7pm — 9pm

English Premier League
Preview
Fox Sports 2
7pm — 7.30pm

English Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports
1.55am — 4am
(Sunday Morning)

Scottish Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
1.55am — 4am
(Sunday Morning)

Spanish Primera Liga
Fox Sports
4am — 6am
(Sunday Morning)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

Italian Serie A
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6.25am — 8.30am

Italian Serie A
SBS TV
10.30am — 11.30am

On the Ball
SBS TV
11.30am — 12.30pm

English Premier League
Replay of overnight match
Fox Sports
12pm — 2pm

Western Union World Soccer
SBS TV
3.30pm — 4pm

English Premier League
Man United vs Liverpool
(LIVE)
Fox Sports
10pm — 1am
(Monday Morning)

MONDAY DECEMBER 18

Italian Serie A
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
6.25am — 8.30am

English Premier League
Man United vs Liverpool
Fox Sports
12pm — 2pm
8.30pm — 10.30pm

English Premier League
Highlights
Fox Sports 2
6pm — 7pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV
7.30pm — 8.30pm

TUES DECEMBER 19

English Premier League
Tottenham vs Arsenal (LIVE)
Fox Sports
6am — 9.30am

UEFA CUP

Inter through after last minute winner

Inter Milan	2
Hertha Berlin	1

Inter win 2-1 on aggregate

An 89th minute goal from substitute Hakan Sukur gave Inter Milan a 2-1 win over Hertha Berlin and a place in the fourth round of the UEFA Cup.

With the first-leg having ended 0-0, Inter were a minute away from being eliminated on the away-goals rule before the Turkish international struck.

The Italians can consider themselves extremely fortunate to still be in the competition after being outplayed throughout the second half by the Bundesliga leaders.

Inter coach Marco Tardelli said: "Of course it is pleasing to get the result — but we did not play well.

"We made too many mistakes and we lacked rhythm. We started well but then it just got worse and it was a night of suffering."

Inter had begun the night confidently enough and went ahead in the sixth minute when Christian Vieri fed Alvaro Recoba and the light-footed Uruguayan rounded Hertha 'keeper Gabor Kiraly before slipping the ball home.

Hertha came out the more determined side after the break and drew level in the 54th minute when the ball fell to Rene

Tretschok on the edge of the penalty area and he powered a left-foot drive past the helpless Sebastien Frey.

Tretschok had the ball in the net again four minutes later from a free-kick but the referee ordered it to be re-taken as he had blown to stop the kick. There was no protest from the Hertha players.

Hertha looked set for a famous result until a minute from time when Sukur chased a long ball from Luigi Di Biagio and having escaped his marker, tucked the ball past Kiraly.

Inter Milan's Alvaro Recoba celebrates after scoring against Hertha Berlin at the San Siro.

Liverpool rebuilding reputation as a force

Liverpool	2
Olympiakos	0

Liverpool win 4-2 on aggregate

Gerard Houllier believes Liverpool are rebuilding their reputation as a European force after reaching the last 16 of the UEFA Cup with a 2-0 win over Olympiakos at Anfield.

England strikers Emile Heskey and Nick Barmby scored in each half as the Reds ran out 4-2 aggregate winners against their Greek rivals, who joined the competition after being knocked out of the Champions League.

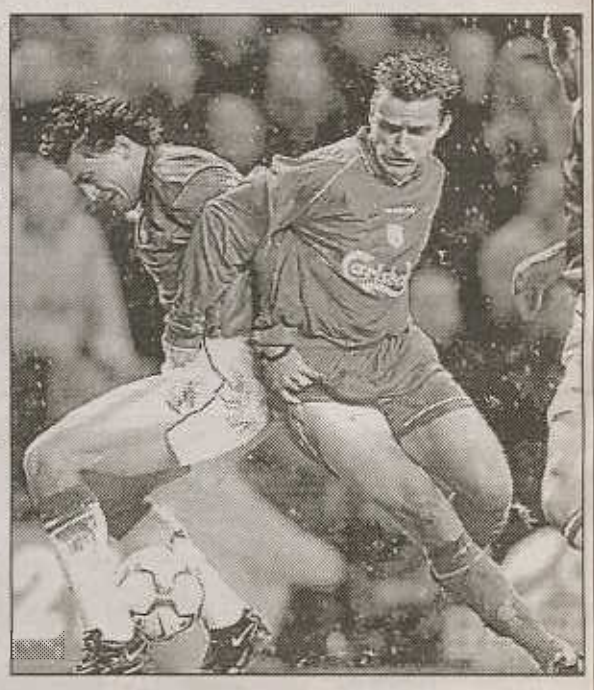
Houllier said: "I feel proud because this club has built its reputation on European nights and the players achieved a great performance ... I didn't think it was easy.

"It was a very professional tactical performance as we needed commitment, discipline and hard work to win."

Olympiakos were on the back foot early with first Steve Gerrard nearly catching 'keeper Dimitri Eleftheropoulos off his line in the fifth minute with a dipping volley.

The Greeks had yet to keep a clean sheet away from home in Europe and Heskey put the Reds ahead when he was first to reach Barmby's prod behind the visitors' backline in the 28th minute and slide his effort through Eleftheropoulos's legs.

Barmby struck again in the 63rd minute after good link play with Danny Murphy allowed him to round the keeper and shoot home off both posts to record his fourth European goals this season.



Liverpool's Vladimir Smicer (right) challenges Georgios Amanatidis of Olympiakos.

Barca booed after home draw with Bruges

Barcelona	1
FC Bruges	1

Barcelona win 3-1 on aggregate

Barcelona were booed off by their own fans as they struggled to a 1-1 draw with 10-man Club Bruges of Belgium to complete a 3-1 aggregate win and earn a place in the last 16 of the UEFA Cup.

The Catalans, desperately disappointed to be out of the Champions League at the first stage, should have had the tie wrapped up when a Rivaldo penalty after 17 minutes added to their 2-0 advantage from the first leg.

Ten minutes later the Catalan side offered Bruges a lifeline when a mix-up between Emmanuel Petit and teenage goalkeeper Jose Manuel Reina presented Gert Verheyen with a simple chance.

Barcelona enjoyed almost all the possession for the remainder of the game but they were woeful in front of goal, Dutch pair Patrick Kluivert and Marc Overmars missing several glorious chances between them.

The home team continued to flirt with disaster with some shaky passing at the back but the sending-off of Peter Van Der Heyden after 68 minutes for a foul on Gabri left the Belgians with little hope of a comeback.

Barcelona's Patrick Kluivert (right) tries to dribble past Brugge's Tjorven De Brul.

Leverkusen out after superb AEK performance

AEK Athens	2
Bayer Leverkusen	0

AEK win 6-4 on aggregate

AEK Athens claimed one of the best European results in their history as they sent Berti Vogts's Bayer Leverkusen crashing out of the UEFA Cup third round by winning the home second leg 2-0.

The Greek side shrugged off poor domestic form to take up where they left off in the 4-4 draw at the Bay Arena two weeks ago, striking early on and taking control of the game.

Argentine midfielder Fernando Navas continued his scoring form against the Germans, adding to his first leg double with a well-taken opener in the 17th minute.

Any thoughts of a comeback for Bayer were snuffed out early in the second half when Greece international Vassilis Tsartas threaded a free kick through the wall.

Leverkusen rarely created problems for the home defence and the closest they came to scoring was in the 60th minute when Markus Daun lobbed a cross on to the bar.

Bayer Leverkusen's Zi Roberto (bottom) and AEK Athens' Fernando Navas fight for the ball.

Porto through after dour draw

Porto	0
Espanyol	0

Porto win 2-0 on aggregate

Porto secured a place in the fourth round of the UEFA Cup after their 0-0 home draw against Espanyol that left them 2-0 winners on aggregate.

In wet and blustery conditions, the Spanish rarely looked like pulling back the deficit from the first leg, although they had a couple of good chances.

Both Manuel Serrano and Enrique Lucas went close in the opening minutes, although it was Porto who had the best chance to score when they were awarded a penalty after just 18 minutes. But Brazilian defender Jose Esquerdinha drove his shot against the upright.

In the second half, Porto did little more than protect their advantage, and while Espanyol continued to press forward, they failed to create many clear chances.

WORLD RESULTS...WORLD RESULTS...WORLD RESULTS...

UEFA CUP
THIRD ROUND - SECOND LEG

AEK Athens (Greece) 2 Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 0 AEK Athens win 6-4 on aggregate, Kaiserslautern (Germany) 3 Rangers (Scotland) 0 Kaiserslautern win 3-1 on aggregate, **Werder Bremen (Germany) 0 Girondins Bordeaux (France) 0 Bordeaux win 4-1 on aggregate,** Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway) 1 Alaves (Spain) 3 Alaves win 4-2 on aggregate, **Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) 5 Osijek (Croatia) 1 Slavia win 5-3 on aggregate,** Hamburg SV (Germany) 0 AS Roma (Italy) 3 AS Roma win 4-0 on aggregate, **Lausanne Sports (Switzerland) 1 Nantes (France) 3 Nantes wins 7-4 on aggregate,** PAOK Salonika (Greece) 0 PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 1 PSV Eindhoven win 4-0 on aggregate, **Celta Vigo (Spain) 1 Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukraine) 0 Celta Vigo win 1-0 on aggregate,** Barcelona (Spain) 1 Club Bruges (Belgium) 1 Barcelona win 3-1 on aggregate, **Inter Milan (Italy) 2 Hertha Berlin (Germany) 1 Inter Milan win 2-1 on aggregate,** Liverpool (England) 2 Olympiakos Piraeus (Greece) 0 Liverpool win 4-2 on aggregate, **Rayo Vallecano (Spain) 2 Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia) 0 Rayo Vallecano win 2-0 on aggregate,** Porto (Portugal) v Espanyol (Spain) - kickoff 2130 GMT, **VfB Stuttgart (Germany) 2 Feyenoord (Netherlands) 1 Stuttgart win 4-3 on aggregate,** TSV 1860 Munich (Germany) 0 Parma (Italy) 2 Parma win 4-2 on aggregate.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool 0 Ipswich Town 1, Coventry City 1 Leicester City 0, Arsenal 5 Newcastle United 0, Bradford City 3 Tottenham Hotspur 3, Charlton Athletic 3 Manchester United 3, Chelsea 4 Derby County 1, Manchester City 5 Everton 0, Southampton 1 Leeds United 0, Sunderland 1 Middlesbrough 0, West Ham United 1 Aston Villa 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester United	**17**	**12**	**4**	**1**	**44**	**13**	**40**
2. Arsenal	17	10	4	3	29	13	34
3. Ipswich Town	17	9	3	5	24	17	30
4. Leicester City	17	8	5	4	17	13	29
5. Sunderland	17	8	5	4	18	16	29
6. Liverpool	17	8	3	6	32	24	27
7. West Ham United	17	6	7	4	23	18	25
8. Aston Villa	16	6	7	3	19	14	25
9. Tottenham Hotspur	17	7	3	7	25	26	24
10. Newcastle United	17	7	3	7	18	21	24
11. Chelsea	17	6	5	6	32	24	23
12. Leeds United	16	6	4	6	22	23	22
13. Charlton Athletic	17	6	4	7	24	27	22
14. Everton	17	6	3	8	19	28	21
15. Southampton	17	5	5	7	22	28	20
16. Manchester City	17	5	2	10	23	30	17
17. Coventry City	17	4	3	10	16	32	15
18. Derby County	17	2	7	8	20	35	13
19. Bradford City	17	2	6	9	12	28	12
20. Middlesbrough	17	2	5	10	19	28	11

LEADING SCORERS
11 - Mark Viduka (Leeds United), Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea), Teddy Sheringham (Manchester United)
10 - Emile Heskey (Liverpool), Thierry Henry (Arsenal), Marcus Stewart (Ipswich Town)
7 - Michael Owen (Liverpool), David Beckham (Manchester United), Paolo di Canio (West Ham United), James Beattie (Southampton)
6 - Marians Pahars (Southampton), Alan Smith (Leeds United), Andy Cole (Manchester United), Jonatan Johansson (Charlton Athletic), Les Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur), Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea), Paulo Wanchope (Manchester City)
5 - Francis Jeffers (Everton), Alen Boksic (Middlesbrough), Alan Shearer (Newcastle United), Malcolm Christie (Derby County), Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
4 - Branko Strupar (Derby County), Andy Hunt (Charlton Athletic), Serhiy Rebrov (Tottenham Hotspur), Graham Stuart (Charlton Athletic), Niall Quinn (Sunderland), Kevin Campbell (Everton), Dion Dublin (Aston Villa), Paul Scholes (Manchester United), Paul Dickov (Manchester City), Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (Manchester United), Craig Bellamy (Leicester City)

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Barnsley 0 Sheffield Utd 0, Birmingham 0 Wimbledon 3, Blackburn 0 QPR 0, Bolton 4 Crewe 1, Crystal Palace 1 Watford 0, Huddersfield 3 Wolverhampton 0, Norwich 1 Gillingham 0, Nottm Forest 2 Portsmouth 0, Preston 2 Burnley 1, Sheffield Wed 2 Stockport 4, Tranmere 2 Grimsby 0, West Brom 1 Fulham 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Fulham	**21**	**16**	**4**	**1**	**50**	**15**	**52**
2 Bolton	22	12	6	4	37	22	42
3 Birmingham	21	12	4	5	32	21	40
4 West Brom	22	12	4	6	29	24	40
5 Watford	20	12	3	5	38	22	39
6 Nottm Forest	21	12	3	6	33	22	39
7 Preston	21	11	5	5	28	22	38
8 Burnley	21	11	5	5	25	22	38
9 Blackburn	21	10	6	5	31	22	36
10 Sheff Utd	22	10	5	7	24	22	35
11 Wimbledon	21	8	6	7	30	23	30
12 Crystal Palace	22	7	5	10	31	33	26
13 Portsmouth	22	6	8	8	24	28	26
14 Barnsley	22	7	5	10	26	32	26
15 Wolverhampton	22	5	8	9	22	26	23
16 Tranmere	22	6	5	11	26	33	23
17 Norwich	21	6	5	10	19	27	23
18 Gillingham	22	5	7	10	25	34	22
19 Sheff Wed	22	6	3	13	28	42	21
20 Crewe	22	6	3	13	17	31	21
21 Stockport	22	4	7	11	28	41	19
22 Grimsby	20	5	3	12	16	30	18
23 QPR	21	2	11	8	23	35	17
24 Huddersfield	21	3	5	13	18	31	14

ENGLISH SECOND LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Walsall	**20**	**12**	**5**	**3**	**37**	**19**	**41**
2 Rotherham	20	12	4	4	36	24	40
3 Millwall	20	12	3	5	38	19	39
4 Wigan	20	10	9	1	27	16	39
5 Reading	19	11	2	6	40	22	35
6 Bristol City	19	8	7	4	31	16	31
7 Stoke	19	8	6	5	30	23	30
8 Wycombe	20	8	6	6	20	18	30
9 Northampton	19	8	4	7	21	21	28
10 Peterborough	20	8	3	9	24	26	27
11 Wrexham	20	7	5	8	30	33	26
12 Cambridge Utd	20	6	6	8	30	31	24
13 Colchester	20	6	6	8	18	21	24
14 Bury	19	7	3	9	18	27	24
15 Notts County	19	7	3	9	21	31	24
16 Bristol Rovers	19	5	8	6	24	20	23
17 Brentford	17	5	8	4	19	27	23
18 Bournemouth	19	5	7	7	29	24	22
19 Oldham	19	6	4	9	22	31	22
20 Port Vale	18	5	5	8	21	24	20
21 Swindon	20	5	5	10	19	37	20
22 Swansea	19	4	7	8	19	25	19
23 Luton	19	3	6	10	20	33	15
24 Oxford Utd	20	2	2	16	19	45	8

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Chesterfield 2 Exeter City 0,
Rochdale v Plymouth (Postponed).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Chesterfield	**21**	**14**	**6**	**1**	**47**	**19**	**48**
2 Brighton	20	13	3	4	37	16	42
3 Rochdale	19	10	6	3	28	16	36
4 Leyton Orient	20	10	6	4	30	25	36
5 Cardiff	19	9	8	2	38	23	35
6 Cheltenham	20	10	4	6	27	20	34
7 Scunthorpe	20	9	4	7	27	16	31
8 Hull	20	7	9	4	19	16	30
9 Southend	20	7	8	5	23	22	29
10 Kidderminster	19	7	7	5	22	22	28
11 Barnet	20	7	6	7	34	28	27
12 Hartlepool	20	7	5	8	27	30	26
13 Blackpool	20	7	4	9	26	34	25
14 Darlington	20	6	5	9	18	21	23
15 Macclesfield	20	5	8	7	25	29	23
16 Lincoln City	19	5	7	7	27	28	22
17 Mansfield	20	5	7	8	29	38	22
18 York	20	6	4	10	20	31	22
19 Shrewsbury	19	6	3	10	18	30	21
20 Plymouth	17	5	4	8	20	24	19
21 Exeter	21	4	7	10	17	27	19
22 Torquay	20	4	5	11	25	41	17
23 Halifax	20	3	6	11	21	34	15
24 Carlisle	20	3	4	13	21	36	13

FA CUP ROUND TWO

Bournemouth 3 Nuneaton 0, Bristol City 3 Kettering 1, Cardiff City 3 Cheltenham 1, Chester 3 Oxford Utd 2, Darlington 0 Luton 0, Kidderminster 0 Carlisle 2, Lincoln City 0 Dagenham & Redbridge 1, Morecambe 2 Cambridge Utd 1, Northwich 3 Leyton Orient 3, Rotherham 1 Northampton 0, Scunthorpe 2 Brighton 1, Southport 1 Kingstonian 2, Swindon 5 Gateshead 0, Wigan v Notts County (postponted), York City 2 Reading 2, Dundee 1 Celtic 2, Rangers 2 Motherwell 0, Aberdeen v Dundee United (postponed), Hibernian 3 Dunfermline Athletic 0, Kilmarnock 0 Hearts 3, St Johnstone 2 St Mirren 0.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	**20**	**16**	**3**	**1**	**48**	**21**	**51**
2. Hibernian	20	13	5	2	37	13	44
3. Rangers	18	12	2	4	39	21	38
4. Kilmarnock	20	11	3	6	25	21	36
5. Hearts	20	8	4	8	31	30	28
6. St Johnstone	20	7	7	6	21	25	28
7. Dundee	19	6	5	8	26	21	23
8. Motherwell	20	6	4	10	25	31	22
9. Dunfermline	20	5	5	10	16	28	20
10. Aberdeen	18	3	8	7	18	25	17
11. St Mirren	20	3	3	14	13	38	12
12. Dundee United	19	1	3	15	12	37	6

LEADING SCORERS
19 - Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
9 - Mixu Paatelainen (Hibernian), Keigan Parker (St Johnstone)
8 - Billy Dodds (Rangers), Kenny Miller (Rangers)
7 - Chris Sutton (Celtic), Colin Cameron (Hearts), Juan Sara (Dundee), Stuart Elliott (Motherwell), Andy Kirk (Hearts), David Zitelli (Hibernian)
6 - Robbie Winters (Aberdeen), Lee McCulloch (Motherwell), Andy McLaren (Kilmarnock)
5 - Ricky Gillies (St Mirren), Claudio Caniggia (Dundee), Ged Brannan (Motherwell), David Moss (Dunfermline Athletic), Arild Stavrum (Aberdeen), Jorg Albertz (Rangers), Stilian Petrov (Celtic)
4 - Didier Agathe (Hibernian), Steve Crawford (Dunfermline Athletic), Russell Latapy (Hibernian), Paul Wright (Kilmarnock), Lubomir Moravcik (Celtic), Jason Dair (Dunfermline Athletic)

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Airdrie 0 Ayr Utd 0, Alloa 2 Morton 1, Falkirk 2 Inverness CT 2, Livingston 2 Clyde 0, Ross County 0 Raith 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Livingston	**18**	**12**	**4**	**2**	**41**	**18**	**40**
2 Falkirk	18	10	2	6	36	31	32
3 Ayr	18	8	7	3	33	28	31
4 Inverness CT	18	7	4	7	38	31	25
5 Clyde	18	6	6	6	25	24	24
6 Raith	18	6	4	8	26	24	22
7 Alloa	18	5	5	8	19	32	20
8 Ross County	18	5	5	8	16	29	20
9 Airdrie	18	3	7	8	26	30	16
10 Morton	18	4	4	10	16	29	16

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Partick	**17**	**10**	**5**	**2**	**26**	**17**	**35**
2 Stenhousemuir	17	8	2	7	31	29	26
3 Stranraer	16	7	4	5	24	23	25
4 Queens Park	17	6	6	5	16	15	24
5 Berwick	16	6	5	5	26	24	23
6 Clydebank	16	6	4	6	20	17	22
7. Arbroath	17	5	7	5	22	21	22
8 Queen of South	17	6	3	8	24	25	21
9 Stirling	16	2	7	7	18	26	13
10. Forfar	17	2	7	8	16	26	13

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Cowdenbeath	**17**	**12**	**3**	**2**	**32**	**11**	**39**
2 Brechin	17	11	4	2	35	18	37
3 Hamilton	17	9	6	2	33	12	33
4 East Fife	17	8	5	4	23	17	29
5 Albion	17	7	5	5	18	19	26
6 Peterhead	17	7	4	6	24	20	25
7 East Stirling	17	4	3	10	17	34	15
8 Dumbarton	17	3	3	11	17	29	12
9 Elgin	17	2	5	10	17	31	11
10 Montrose	17	1	4	12	11	36	7

SCOTTISH CUP

Albion 1 East Fife 1, Brechin City v Forfar (postponed), Dumbarton 1 East Stirling 1, Edinburgh City v Buckie Thistle (postponed), Montrose 0 Arbroath 1, Queen of the South v Clydebank (postponed). Stenhousemuir 1 Berwick 4, Whitehill Welfare v Peterhead (postponed).

ITALIAN SERIE A

Atalanta 0 Perugia 0, Bari 2 Bologna 0, Fiorentina 2 Inter Milan 0, Juventus 1 Parma 0, AC Milan 4 Lecce 1, AS Roma 2 Udinese 1, Vicenza 1 Lazio 4, Reggina 1 Verona 1, Brescia 1 Napoli 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. AS Roma	**10**	**8**	**1**	**1**	**22**	**8**	**25**
2. Atalanta Bergamo	10	5	4	1	15	8	19
3. Juventus	10	5	4	1	15	9	19
4. Lazio	10	5	3	2	17	10	18
5. AC Milan	10	5	3	2	18	12	18
6. Parma	10	5	2	3	13	8	17
7. Bologna	10	5	2	3	16	12	17
8. Udinese	10	5	1	4	17	11	16
9. Fiorentina	10	3	5	2	17	15	14
10. Inter Milan	10	3	3	4	12	14	12
11. Lecce	10	3	3	4	8	14	12
12. Verona	10	2	5	3	13	17	11
13. Perugia	10	2	4	4	11	15	10
14. Vicenza	10	2	3	5	11	18	9
15. Bari	10	2	2	6	8	15	8
16. Brescia	10	1	4	5	11	16	7
17. Napoli	10	1	4	5	8	16	7
18. Reggina	10	1	1	8	5	19	4

LEADING SCORERS
10 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan), Gabriel Batistuta (AS Roma)
7 - Roberto Carlos Sosa (Udinese)
6 - Francesco Totti (AS Roma)
5 - Leandro (Fiorentina), David Trezeguet (Juventus)
4 - Fausto Rossini (Atalanta Bergamo), Julio Cruz (Bologna),
Dario Hubner (Brescia), Nuno Gomez (Fiorentina), Hernan Crespo, Simone Inzaghi (Lazio), Marco Materazzi (Perugia), Roberto Muzzi (Udinese), Emiliano Bonazzoli (Verona)
3 - Cristiano Doni, Nicola Ventola (Atalanta Bergamo), Phil Masinga (Bari), Alvaro Recoba (Inter Milan), Zinedine Zidane (Juventus), Pavel Nedved, Marcelo Salas (Lazio), Cristiano Lucarelli, Davor Vugrinec (Lecce), Oliver Bierhoff (AC Milan), Sergio Conceicao, Sabri Lamouchi, Patrick Mboma (Parma), Zissis Vryzas (Perugia), Mohammed Kallon, Luca Toni (Vicenza)

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Athletic Bilbao 4 Real Oviedo 0, Barcelona 4 Espanyol 2, Deportivo Coruna 1 Rayo Vallecano 1, Malaga 3 Valladolid 1, Racing Santander 2 Alaves 1, Real Madrid 3 Celta Vigo 0, Real Mallorca 1 Osasuna 1, Las Palmas 1 Villarreal 5, Numancia 1 Real Zaragoza 1, Valencia 2 Real Sociedad 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Valencia	**14**	**8**	**4**	**2**	**25**	**9**	**28**
2. Deportivo Coruna	14	8	4	2	24	11	28
3. Real Madrid	13	8	2	3	29	16	26
4. Rayo Vallecano	14	6	5	3	30	20	23
5. Barcelona	14	7	2	5	27	22	23
6. Real Mallorca	14	6	4	4	16	15	22
7. Alaves	14	6	3	5	20	14	21
8. Real Oviedo	14	6	2	6	19	22	20
9. Villarreal	14	5	4	5	17	18	19
10. Malaga	14	5	3	6	23	23	18
11. Athletic Bilbao	14	5	3	6	20	21	18
12. Espanyol	14	5	3	6	14	16	18
13. Celta Vigo	14	5	3	6	17	20	18
14. Las Palmas	14	5	3	6	16	29	18
15. Valladolid	14	3	7	4	14	17	16
16. Real Zaragoza	13	3	6	4	14	14	15
17. Racing Santander	14	3	4	7	17	25	13
18. Numancia	14	3	4	7	14	22	13
19. Real Sociedad	14	3	3	8	15	30	12
20. Osasuna	14	1	7	6	12	21	10

LEADING SCORERS
10 - Javi Moreno (Alaves)
8 - Rivaldo (Barcelona)
7 - Juan Sanchez (Valencia), Raul (Real Madrid), Dely Valdes (Malaga)
6 - Dario Silva (Malaga), Edgaras Jankauskas (Real Sociedad), Oli (Real Oviedo), Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Catanha (Celta Vigo), Michel (Rayo Vallecano), Gaizka Mendieta (Valencia), Diego Tristan (Deportivo Coruna), Guti (Real Madrid), Victor (Villarreal)
5 - Elvir Bolic (Rayo Vallecano), John Carew (Valencia), Paulo Jamelli (Real Zaragoza)
4 - Jose Emilio Amavisca (Racing Santander), Guayre (Las Palmas), Ruben Navarro (Numancia), Alberto Luque (Real Mallorca), Jose Maria Quevedo (Rayo Vallecano), Jon Perez Bolo (Rayo Vallecano), Fernando Hierro (Real Madrid), Robert Losada (Real Oviedo)

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayer Leverkusen 4 Hertha Berlin 0, Werder Bremen 2 Cologne 1, Hamburg SV 2 Energie Cottbus 1, TSV 1860 Munich 2 Hansa Rostock 1, SC Freiburg 5 VfL Bochum 0, Schalke 04 2 VfB Stuttgart 1, Borussia Dortmund 3 SpVgg Unterhaching 0, Kaiserslautern 0 Bayern Munich 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 1 VfL Wolfsburg 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bayer Leverkusen	**16**	**9**	**4**	**3**	**26**	**16**	**31**
2. Schalke 04	16	9	3	4	33	17	30
3. Borussia Dortmund	16	9	2	5	27	24	29
4. Hertha Berlin	16	9	1	6	34	27	28
5. Bayern Munich	16	8	3	5	32	18	27
6. VfL Wolfsburg	16	6	6	4	33	22	24
7. Cologne	16	7	3	6	31	27	24
8. Kaiserslautern	16	7	3	6	21	21	24
9. Hamburg SV	16	6	3	7	33	30	21
10. SC Freiburg	16	5	5	6	23	20	20
11. Werder Bremen	15	5	5	5	20	21	20
12. Eintracht Frankfurt	16	6	2	8	21	25	20
13. TSV 1860 Munich	16	4	6	6	19	28	18
14. Hansa Rostock	16	5	3	8	13	25	18
15. SpVgg Unterhaching	15	4	5	6	17	25	17
16. Energie Cottbus	16	5	2	9	17	28	17
17. VfL Bochum	16	4	3	9	13	31	15
18. VfB Stuttgart	16	3	5	8	21	29	14

LEADING SCORERS
12 - Ebbe Sand (Schalke 04)
10 - Sergej Barbarez (Hamburg SV)
9 - Paul Agostino (TSV 1860 Munich)
8 - Carsten Jancker (Bayern Munich), Dirk Lottner (Cologne), Oliver Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen)
7 - Jonathan Akpoborie (VfL Wolfsburg), Elber (Bayern Munich), Heiko Herrlich (Borussia Dortmund), Michael Preetz (Hertha Berlin)
6 - Ailton (Werder Bremen), Andrzej Juskowiak (VfL Wolfsburg), Emile Mpenza (Schalke 04), Thomas Reichenberger (Eintracht Frankfurt), Christian Timm (Cologne)

FRENCH CHAMPOINNAT

Olympique Marseille 2 Nantes 0, Girondins Bordeaux 2 St Etienne 1, Paris St Germain 1 Metz 0, Lille 2 Sedan 0, En Avant Guingamp 2 Monaco 2, Olympique Lyon 1 Bastia 0, Strasbourg 1 Stade Rennes 1, Toulouse 1 RC Lens 0, AJ Auxerre 2 Troyes 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Girondins Bordeaux	**20**	**9**	**7**	**4**	**27**	**16**	**34**
2. Nantes	19	10	3	6	32	23	33
3. Sedan	20	9	6	5	30	21	33
4. Lille	19	8	6	5	20	14	30
5. RC Lens	20	8	6	6	23	19	30
6. En Avant Guingamp	20	8	5	7	23	24	29
7. Olympique Lyon	19	6	10	3	23	16	28
8. Paris St Germain	19	8	4	7	30	28	28
9. Bastia	19	8	4	7	21	19	28
10. Troyes	20	7	6	7	24	28	27
11. Stade Rennes	20	7	5	8	20	19	26
12. Monaco	20	7	5	8	28	28	26
13. AJ Auxerre	20	7	5	8	21	24	26
14. St Etienne	20	6	6	8	27	29	24
15. Olympique Marseille	20	7	3	10	21	25	24
16. Metz	20	5	6	9	15	24	21
17. Toulouse	19	4	6	9	17	22	18
18. Strasbourg	20	4	5	11	16	39	17

LEADING SCORERS
11 - Laurent Robert (Paris St Germain)
10 - Alex (St Etienne), Pedro Pauleta (Girondins Bordeaux)
9 - Sladjan Djukic (Troyes), Frederic Nee (Bastia), Stephane Guivarc'h (AJ Auxerre)
8 - Sonny Anderson (Olympique Lyon), Bruno Rodriguez (En Avant Guingamp), Steve Marlet (Olympique Lyon), Victor Bonilla (Toulouse)
7 - Shabani Nonda (Monaco), Viorel Moldovan (Nantes), Cedric Mionnet (Sedan), Nicolas Anelka (PSG)
6 - Toni Brogno and Pius N'Diefi (both Sedan), Gerald Baticle (Metz), Fabrice Fiorese (En Avant Guingamp), Cyril Chapuis (Stade Rennes), Nicolas Gousse (Troyes), Marc Wilmots (Girondins Bordeaux), Djamel Belmadi (Olympique Marseille)
5 - Olivier Quint (Sedan), Olivier Monterrubio (Nantes), Pegguy Luyindula (Strasbourg), Esteban Fuertes (RC Lens), Pierre-Yves Andre (Bastia)

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Club Bruges 1 Lierse 0, Eendracht Aalst 0 Antwerp 4, Harelbeke 1 Lokeren 6, La Louviere 1 Ghent 1, Germinal Beerschot 5 Genk 1, Mechelen 0 Anderlecht 2, Sint-Truiden 1 Charleroi 3, Westerlo 1 Beveren 2, Standard Liege 3 Excelsior Mouscron 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Club Bruges	**16**	**15**	**0**	**1**	**54**	**10**	**45**
2. Anderlecht	16	13	3	0	47	13	42
3. Standard Liege	16	9	4	3	41	21	31
4. Excelsior Mouscron	16	9	2	5	37	21	29
5. Charleroi	16	9	1	6	28	30	28
6. Ghent	16	8	4	4	33	25	28
7. Westerlo	16	8	3	5	28	24	27
8. Lierse	16	7	3	6	26	23	24
9. Germinal Beerschot	16	7	1	8	27	25	22
10. Lokeren	16	5	6	5	22	24	21
11. Beveren	16	5	5	6	14	30	20
12. Antwerp	16	6	1	9	20	24	19
13. Genk	16	4	6	6	18	21	18
14. Sint-Truiden	16	3	4	9	17	29	13
15. Eendracht Aalst	16	3	4	9	17	38	13
16. Mechelen	16	2	3	11	20	37	9
17. La Louviere	16	1	5	10	12	31	8
18. Harelbeke	16	2	1	13	20	55	7

LEADING SCORERS
15 - Nenad Jestrovic (Excelsior Mouscron)
12 - Jan Koller (Anderlecht), Tomasz Radzinski (Anderlecht), Gert Verheyen (Club Bruges)
11 - Michael Goossens (Standard Liege)
10 - Sven Vermant (Club Bruges)

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Feyenoord 3 Ajax Amsterdam 1, Vitesse Arnhem 0 Heerenveen 0, Utrecht 5 NAC Breda 0, Graafschap Doetinchem 0 Groningen 4, Fortuna Sittard 2 Sparta Rotterdam 1, Roda JC Kerkrade 0 Willem II Tilburg 1, AZ Alkmaar 0 NEC Nijmegen 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Feyenoord	**14**	**12**	**1**	**1**	**35**	**13**	**37**
2. PSV Eindhoven	14	10	3	1	25	10	33
3. Vitesse Arnhem	15	10	3	2	32	20	33
4. Ajax Amsterdam	17	9	3	5	40	22	30
5. NEC Nijmegen	15	6	8	1	24	15	26
6. Roda JC Kerkrade	16	7	3	6	31	25	24
7. RKC Waalwijk	15	6	5	4	15	13	23
8. AZ Alkmaar	15	6	4	5	26	24	22
9. Utrecht	16	6	3	7	29	29	21
10. Twente Enschede	15	5	5	5	25	24	20
11. NAC Breda	15	6	2	7	21	26	20
12. Willem II Tilburg	15	4	6	5	21	21	18
13. Heerenveen	15	3	7	5	16	25	16
14. Groningen	16	4	4	8	22	28	16
15. Sparta Rotterdam	16	3	4	9	22	33	13
16. Graafschap Doetinchem	17	4	1	12	24	35	13
17. RBC Roosendaal	15	3	0	12	25	36	9
18. Fortuna Sittard	15	1	4	10	9	34	7

LEADING SCORERS
13 - Ali Elkhattabi (Sparta Rotterdam)
12 - Robin Nelisse (AZ Alkmaar), Igor Gluscevic (Utrecht)
11 - Gorgi Hristov (NEC Nijmegen)
10 - Mateja Kezman (PSV Eindhoven)
9 - Yannis Anastasiou (Roda JC Kerkrade)
8 - Martin Drent (Groningen), Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Twente Enschede), Matthew Amoah (Vitesse Arnhem), Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord)

PORTUGESE FIRST DIVISION

Farense 1 Campomaiorense 3, Aves 1 Uniao Leiria 1, Maritimo 2 Braga 0, Salgueiros 1 Estrela Amadora 0, Alverca 2 Benfica 1, Vitoria Guimaraes 0 Pacos Ferreira 1, Sporting 2 Belenenses 1, Gil Vicente 0 Boavista 2, Porto v Beira Mar.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Porto	**13**	**10**	**1**	**2**	**31**	**9**	**31**
2. Boavista	14	8	5	1	29	11	29
3. Sporting	14	9	2	3	25	13	29
4. Braga	14	8	3	3	23	17	27
5. Belenenses	14	7	4	3	17	12	25
6. Benfica	14	7	3	4	22	14	24
7. Salgueiros	14	8	0	6	18	19	24
8. Pacos Ferreira	14	6	4	4	21	13	22
9. Maritimo	14	6	3	5	16	12	21
10. Farense	14	5	4	5	19	19	19
11. Uniao Leiria	14	4	6	4	14	21	18
12. Beira Mar	13	4	3	6	13	19	15
13. Alverca	14	4	3	7	17	27	15
14. Campomaiorense	14	2	7	5	13	23	13
15. Vitoria Guimaraes	14	3	3	8	17	25	12
16. Aves	14	2	3	9	15	26	9
17. Estrela Amadora	14	2	1	11	11	26	7
18. Gil Vicente	14	1	3	10	8	22	6

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

AEK Athens 3 Aris Salonika 1, PAOK Salonika 4 Iraklis 2, Panathinaikos 1 Athinaikos 0, Panachaiki 1 Panionios 1, Kalamata 3 PAS Ioannina 4, Paniliakos 1 Ethnikos Asteras 0, Ionikos 1 OFI Crete 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	9	7	2	0	31	9	23
2. Panathinaikos	10	6	4	0	15	5	22
3. AEK Athens	10	6	1	3	20	15	19
4. Ionikos	10	5	3	2	15	10	18
5. Iraklis	10	5	2	3	14	10	17
6. Ethnikos Asteras	10	5	2	3	15	17	17
7. PAOK Salonika	10	4	4	2	19	16	16
8. Xanthi	9	4	3	2	8	8	15
9. Aris Salonika	10	4	2	4	13	11	14
10. Panionios	10	2	5	3	10	13	11
11. PAS Ioannina	10	2	3	5	16	20	9
12. Panachaiki	10	2	3	5	13	19	9
13. Paniliakos	10	1	4	5	5	14	7
14. Athinaikos	10	2	1	7	11	21	7
15. Kalamata	10	1	3	6	16	24	6
16. OFI Crete	10	1	2	7	9	18	5

QANTAS
THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

National Soccer League

	TOTAL							HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
SOUTH MELBOURNE	9	5	3	1	20	9	18	5	3	2	0	13	5	4	2	1	1	7	4
PERTH GLORY	9	5	2	2	18	9	17	5	4	1	0	13	2	4	1	1	2	5	7
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	9	5	2	2	14	7	17	5	4	0	1	9	2	4	1	2	2	5	5
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	9	5	2	2	17	13	17	4	2	1	1	6	5	5	3	1	1	11	8
CARLTON SC	8	3	4	1	13	9	13	4	2	2	0	10	4	4	1	2	1	3	5
NORTHERN SPIRIT	9	3	4	2	12	8	13	5	2	3	0	6	2	4	1	1	2	6	6
MARCONI STALLIONS	9	3	4	2	11	8	13	4	2	1	1	7	5	5	1	3	1	4	3
PARRAMATTA POWER	9	4	1	4	14	13	13	5	2	0	3	8	10	4	2	1	1	6	3
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	9	4	1	4	14	15	13	4	3	0	1	9	4	5	1	1	3	5	11
SYDNEY UNITED	9	3	3	3	13	18	12	5	2	3	0	9	7	4	1	0	3	4	11
CANBERRA COSMOS	9	3	2	4	16	16	11	3	1	0	2	5	5	6	2	2	2	11	11
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	8	3	1	4	10	16	10	5	2	1	2	9	11	3	1	0	2	1	5
BRISBANE STRIKERS	9	2	3	4	12	16	9	3	1	1	1	5	5	6	1	2	3	7	11
FOOTBALL KINGZ	9	2	2	5	13	19	8	5	2	2	1	9	5	4	0	0	4	4	14
NEWCASTLE UNITED	9	1	3	5	6	19	6	4	1	0	3	3	8	5	0	3	2	3	11
EASTERN PRIDE	9	0	3	6	11	19	3	5	0	3	2	5	8	4	0	0	4	5	10

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
MARCONI STALLIONS 0

Venue: North Sydney Oval. **Crowd:** 6,251. **Referee:** J. Blaney.
Cautions: Foster (NS) 9, Bell (MS) 78 Thomas (NS) 87.
Teams: NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Cunico, Bingley, Arnold (Bilokapic 75), Thomas, Enes (Spencer 78), Cranney, Langdon, Foster, Moreira (Griffiths 65), Burgess.
MARCONI STALLIONS: Aceski, Babic (Renaud 3), Costanzo, Longo, Afkos, Maisano (McDonald 82), Farah, Brownlie (Karl 80), Bell, Trajanovski, Last.

FOOTBALL KINGZ 2
(Burton 86, Rufer 88)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2
(Kiratzoglou 34, Cervinski 90)

Venue: Ericsson Stadium. **Crowd:** 8,257. **Referee:** P. Green.
Cautions: Da Costa (MK) 17, Rajher (MK) 22, Cervinski (MK) 27.
Teams: KINGZ: Marsh, Van Steeden, Osman, Bunce (Bluhm 75), Lines (Ibrahim 69), Burton, Vicelich, Perry, Silva (Ngata 54), Rufer Stevens.
KNIGHTS: Acevski, R. Vargas, Ognenovski, Vukadin, Rajher, Nastevski, Kiratzoglou, A. Vargas, Kovacic (Cervinski 83), Sulemani (Da Costa 78), Magdic (Porter 69).

LEADING GOALSCORERS
After Round Nine

THOMPSON A.	(Carlton SC)	6
VLAHOS A.	(Sth Melb)	6
ANGELUCCI J.	(Canberra)	5
BURGESS B.	(N Spirit)	5
DESPOTOVSKI. B	(Perth)	5
MILLER J.	(Parramatta)	5
MORI D.	(Perth Glory)	5
TRIMBOLI P	(Football Kingz)	5

EASTERN PRIDE 2
(Watkins 7, Hutchinson 72)
BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
(Rech 44 & 58)

Venue: Mobil Park. **Crowd:** 1,399. **Referee:** P. Mur.
Cautions: Smeltz (BS) 46, Harris (BS) 77.
Teams: EASTERN PRIDE: Galekovic, Fak, Kim, Bell, Puca, Hutchinson, Nilo, Wearne (Buhagian 88), Watkins (Roach 76), Griffiths, Stergiopoulos.
BRISBANE STRIKERS: Duke, Stefanuto, Bell, Foster, McClaren, North, Davidson, Smeltz (Miner 79), Harris, Meredith (Drake 89), Rech.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 4
(Trimboli 26pen, Vlahos 76, Lozanovski 92, Boutsianis 95)
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
(Chipperfield 24, Reid 93)

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. **Crowd:** 7,589. **Referee:** K. Stott (USA)
Cautions: Souris (WW) 40, Petkovic (SM) 67.
Teams: STH MELBOURNE: Petkovic, DeAmicis, Durakovic, Clarkson, Panopoulos, Coveney (Lazanovski 57), Trimboli, Boutsianis, Vlahos (Kalogeracos 78), Susa, Kisborno.
WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Barlow, Souris, Ceccoli (Mennillo 75), Stanton (Petrovski 75), Cervinski, Horsley, Reid, Young, Chipperfield, Huxley, Blake.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Perth Glory's BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI: Two in a minute helping to sink Newcastle at Perth Oval.

SYDNEY UNITED 2
(Duer 66, Menapi 93)
CANBERRA COSMOS 2
(Castro 5, Popovich 94)

Venue: SUSC **Crowd:** 4,802. **Referee:** Brett Hugo.
Cautions: Awaritefe (SU) 45, Pondeljak (SU) 45, Phillips (CC) 61, Angelucci (CC) 62, Castro (CC) 74, Arranz (CC) 89.
Red Cards: Castro (CC) 76, Pondeljak (SU) 84.
Teams: UNITED: Hughes, Burt, Plesa, Arambasic, Pondeljak, Deur, Genc (Rastall 65), Awaritefe (Menapi 58), Talevski, Webb, Palapanis (Maric 27).
COSMOS: Konstantinou, Popovich, Purdue, Hagger (Scott 79), Castro, Angelucci, Arranz, Lyons, Rakic (Imaya 78), Phillips (Ravanello 69), Miyazawa.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 2
(Miller 35 & 81)

Venue: Belmore SG. **Crowd:** 4,802. **Referee:** Brett Hugo.
Cautions: Halpin (SO) 62, Blagojevic (PP) 63, Ardone (PP) 65.
Teams: SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Bolton, Sinozic, Wilson (Amegashie 46), Kohler, Juric, Sarr, Halpin, Owens, Carle (Doumanis), Collins, Moore.
PARRAMATTA POWER: Crews, Elrich, Orlic, Tobin, Ardone (Clark), Miller, Berry (Griffiths 46), Blagojevic, Vrsic, Bennett, Brown.

PERTH GLORY 4
(Junior 18, Harnwell 28, Despotovski 40 & 41)
NEWCASTLE UNITED 0

Venue: Perth Oval. **Crowd:** 11,873. **Referee:** A. Nardi.
Cautions: McBreen (NU) 2, Junior (PG) 18, McManus (NU) 24, Despotovski (PG) 40, Tsekenis (NU) 46, Roberts (NU) 63, Harnwell (PG) 63, Juchniewicz (NU) 76.
Teams: PERTH: Petkovic, Trajkovski (Valle 53), Harnwell, Milicevic, Miller, Despotovski (Buljan 53), Junior (Roberts 63), Mori, Faria, Pryce, Carbone.
NEWCASTLE: Catlin, Roberts, Zonicich, McManus, Sprod, Wilson, Magnacca (Trpcevski 76), Buonavoglia (Juchniewicz 71), Tsekenis, Wieczorek, McBreen (Surjan 46).

ADELAIDE CITY
VS
CARLTON SC

Match Postponed until further notice

ROUND TEN

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15
Newcastle United vs South Melbourne
SATURDAY DECEMBER 16
Parramatta Power vs Eastern Pride
Canberra Cosmos vs Sydney Olympic
Brisbane Strikers vs Football Kingz
Wollongong Wolves vs Sydney United
Marconi Stallions vs Adelaide City
SUNDAY DECEMBER 17
Melbourne Knights vs Northern Spirit
Carlton SC vs Perth Glory